

BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HIGH SCHOOL

An International Baccalaureate World School

4301 EAST-WEST HIGHWAY ~ BETHESDA, MD 20814



The opening of school brings the anticipation of getting to know new students, implementing new ideas and advancing the excellence of our high school. B-CC will welcome approximately 556 freshmen, and over 2,100 total students this year. The **first day of school** for students is **Tuesday, September 5, 2017**. Students must arrive at school promptly by 7:40 a.m., and on the first day of school all students will report to their homerooms to get their schedules. The homeroom locations for all students will be posted throughout the school.

NEW STUDENT INFORMATION, PRINCIPAL'S MEET & GREET & BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

On *Sunday, August 27th* from 3 – 4:30 p.m., I will hold a **Principal's Meet and Greet** for all families in the school cafeteria. There will be light refreshments for all to enjoy. I look forward to meeting you and your family!

All ninth graders, as well as any students who are new to B-CC, are invited to **New Student Orientation** on *Thursday, August 31st*, 7:40 – 11:30 a.m. School buses will run on the normal a.m. schedule. Students will report to the auditorium and sit in alphabetical order by last name. All new students will receive their schedules and meet their first semester teachers.

A **New Parent Orientation** is scheduled for the evening of *August 31st* from 7 – 8:00 p.m. Parents new to B-CC will have the opportunity to visit information tables from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m., and the program begins promptly at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. I am pleased to welcome Dave Welch as PTSA President. We will work closely together to help parents stay informed.

Back-to-School Night is on *Thursday, September 14th*. The night will begin at 7:00 p.m., but parent information tables will be out from 6 – 7 p.m. Parking is very limited so early arrival is strongly recommended. This is an opportunity to meet your child's first semester teachers. Parents will follow their child's class schedule, spending a few minutes meeting each teacher. Your child will bring home a copy of his or her schedule. *Please bring the schedule with you* to avoid waiting in line to get a copy.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

If your child has not yet completed his or her summer assignments, please be sure to download the assignments from our [website](#):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tpN7ktXCJ2mPJK_6e878BpCZwtAVvza3sYI777-qznQ/edit

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

B-CC's enrollment is expected to increase to 2400 students by the year 2021. The construction of a 34-classroom addition is well underway and on schedule to be complete by the Fall of 2018. The new building will yield expanded program space for ceramics, digital arts, technology and engineering. We will also have a beautiful dance studio with future capacity to serve as a black box theater. The location of the construction minimizes any disturbance to our current classrooms.



However, we do have to adjust in other areas. From now until January, our main entrance is undergoing a redesign. As a result, the temporary main entrance is near the loading dock and use of the gym is restricted. The stadium continues to serve as the staging area for construction. All “home” football games will be played at Walter Johnson HS, and all other games will be played at the opponent’s site, even if it is a home game for B-CC. Many teams also have to practice off site. Our athletic director, Dr. Considine, posts the details on the school’s website.

Our Homecoming game will be at Walter Johnson HS on Thursday, October 19th, and the dance will be on Friday, October 20th at another school site.

At the completion of our construction project, student parking will be underneath the tennis courts. Until the project is completed, there will be work in the student parking area that could take a few spaces, but we do not anticipate any drastic reduction in the very limited student parking that is available. It is important to note that construction teams can often encounter unanticipated challenges, so we must be prepared to adjust if circumstances change.

Members of the construction team will have identification badges displayed at all times and will be parked within the stadium. *No contact or interaction between students and contractors should occur.* In addition, students must stay out of the construction zone, as the “hard hat” area is dangerous, and I do not want anyone to be hurt. If your child has any concerns regarding safety, please have him or her contact the grade-level administrator immediately.

ATHLETICS

Tryouts for fall sports begins on August 9th. Due to construction restrictions in the building please check the athletics website for each specific sport details at <http://barontheletics.net>. Winter sport tryouts begin on November 15th and spring tryouts begin on March 1st. Students must have all required forms completed and submitted before tryouts begin. The fall registration packet can be found on the athletics website. Online registration is set to begin effective for the winter season. Donna Considine, [Donna S Considine@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Donna_S.Considine@mcpsmd.org), Athletic Director, is the contact for any questions regarding athletics.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PRICES & FREE/REDUCED MEALS

Laura Reese, Cafeteria Manager, **240-497-6319**

The regular price for breakfast for 2017-18 is \$1.30. Students who received free or reduced meal services will receive breakfast at no cost. The cost for lunch for 2017-18 is \$2.80. Students who received reduced-price lunches will pay \$.40.

Free and Reduced-price Meals Services (FARMS) are available to eligible students based upon the family’s income. **Preprinted applications will be sent home with the youngest child in the family the first week of school.** Students who were eligible to receive FARMS during the 2016-2017 school year will receive free or reduced-price meals until October 17, 2017. All parents must complete a new form to continue meals throughout the 2017-18 school year. *Students who qualify for free- or reduced meals might also be eligible for a fee waiver or fee reduction for Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests as well as college application fees.* It is important that all eligible students apply.

COURSE FEES

Technology, engineering, art, photography and **music** courses could have fees that cover the cost of component parts of a project that will become student property or items that are for students’ personal use. During the first week of school your child will be given a notice about fees due in any of his or her classes. Be sure to **pay course fees within the first week of school** at <http://osp.osmsinc.com/MontgomeryMD/> The **Extracurricular Activity Fee (ECA)** is no longer required.

EMERGENCY FORMS

- On the **first day of school**, please send your child with a completed **Parent/Child Reunification Form** (available on the school website). In case of an emergency we must have names of adults who you authorize to pick up your child from school. We are unable to release your child to another adult (including neighbors or relatives) without your *pre-approval*. In addition to being available on the school website, this form is contained in this mailing.
- Students will bring home a **Pre-Printed Emergency Information Sheet** on the first day of school. Please review this information for accuracy, correct all errors, sign, and return. Please return school forms **as soon as possible**, but no later than September 8th.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Families must plan for students to attend school the full day through the end of the school year as we no longer have final exams / exam make-up days. To ensure that students do not miss valuable instructional time families should make every effort to schedule vacations during school holidays or after the last day of school. Note that June 13-15th is reserved for possible instructional days to make-up for any emergency school closures.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE—Denise Alexander, Attendance Secretary, 240-740-0409

Arriving to each class every day **on time at 7:40 a.m.** not only ensures students have continuity of instruction, but also demonstrates students' respect for the time and effort teachers put into planning lessons.

Parents do not need to call the attendance office for students missing school for less than (3) three consecutive days due to unexpected illness. Upon their return students must submit a note from their parent or guardian to the attendance office requesting an excuse for an unexpected illness. For the absences to be excused, notes must be received **within 3 days upon the student's return**. Attendance notes must include the student's name and i.d. number as well as the dates of and reason for the absence. Notes submitted electronically are acceptable, but notes have to include a *parent signature*, so electronic copies must be scanned/photographed and emailed to denise_e_alexander@mcpsmd.org.

If students have a planned absence from school, parents should write a note **in advance** of the absence. Students with a note for an early dismissal should take the note directly to the attendance office. ***Students leaving early or arriving late must sign in and out of school so that we can account for the whereabouts and safety of all students.***

A list of excused and unexcused absences is available in the [Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities](#) as well as the school's student handbook. **Please note that the absences of students who demonstrate a pattern of missing classes on days when assessments are given or on days when major projects are due will be closely scrutinized, even if the students bring notes.** *Under no circumstances should students skip classes as a strategy to complete work that has piled up due to procrastination or as a strategy to avoid an assessment for which they have not adequately prepared.* Forged attendance notes will result in an unexcused absence as well as additional consequences for dishonesty.

For unexcused absences teachers may deny students the opportunity to earn credit for missed work / assessments. In addition, students who accumulate five unexcused absences in any class must complete [Form 560-26A](#), and fulfill attendance goals for the remainder of the semester in order to earn a passing grade in the course. Additional assignments could be required to restore course credit.

STUDENT SAFETY—PREVENTING THE ILLEGAL USE OF ALCOHOL and DRUGS

Ensuring a safe environment for students is our highest priority. The school administration will work in close partnership with families to educate students and implement intervention strategies to increase awareness of the dangers of alcohol and substance use. The administrative team will also communicate and enforce school policies that keep students safe in the hopes that no family has to endure the tragic loss of their child due to an alcohol/drug-related incident.

Under no circumstances will students be admitted to school events (games, dances, etc.) if they are suspected to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Students are not permitted to bring backpacks, water bottles etc. into games or dances. **Students who are found to be under the influence of alcohol or any substances at school or a school event—or distributing illegal/controlled substances--will be given school consequences and referred to the police. In addition, students will forfeit participation in their extracurricular / athletic activities as well participation in future school events.** If you suspect that your son or daughter is using alcohol or other drugs, screening services are available in Montgomery County. For additional information, visit the county government's [SASCA](#) website. Additional resources include: National Alliance on Mental Illness ([NAMI](#)), [Caron](#) and [Shady Grove Adventist Healthcare](#).

PARKING

An extremely limited number of parking spaces are available to students. These spaces are generally assigned to students who must drive to their internships or students whose extracurricular / athletic commitments necessitate driving.

For the 2017-2018 school year students who park in the school lot without permits ***will be towed***. When parents are visiting the school between 8:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., the bus loop is available for parking. However, after 12:45 p.m. all vehicles from the bus loop must be moved to ensure that our buses can park. Parked cars that impede school bus parking will be towed.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Students are permitted to use cell phones before and after school, in between classes and during lunch. If you must reach your child during the school day, please call or text during one of these times. For emergencies that occur during class time, please call the main office.

Cell phones should be silenced and out of sight during class unless the teacher is engaging students in an activity in which students can use their phones to access the internet. Chromebooks (with internet access) are available in most classrooms, so students are not required to have a cell phone to complete their assignments.

Students who use cell phones at inappropriate times during class or who skip class in order to use their phones are demonstrating disrespect for the significant amount of time their teachers have put into planning and implementing lessons. Students who chronically use their phones at inappropriate times, who use phones in inappropriate ways or who fail to put their phones away when prompted, could lose the privilege of carrying a phone throughout the school day, among other consequences. In some cases, parents will be called to come to the school to pick-up the student's phone.

Communicating with the School

MAIN OFFICE 240-740-0400

Office hours are 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Se habla español en la oficina central. Pida a Luis Carias, Amy Councilman o Sonia Matus para español.

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT, 240-740-0420

Jeannette Reveron, Resource Counselor

Myrta Molina, ESOL Counselor

Marisol Perez, Counseling Secretary

Patricia Parmelee, College & Career Information Coordinator

REGISTRAR 240-740-0426

Maureen Bonner, Registrar (handles transcript questions)

Pida por Jeannette Reveron, Marisol Perez o Myrta Molina en la oficina de consejería para español.

- The master schedule has already been constructed based upon students' course selections. Contact your child's counselor only to make changes in case your child is enrolled in the incorrect course/level. **We are unable to honor requests for specific teachers.**
- Counselors ensure that students are taking the classes needed to graduate and to meet their post-secondary school college and career goals.
- Counselors also help if students experience any social/emotional concerns, health challenges or family problems. Please contact your child's counselor to alert him or her of issues that could affect your child's school performance

COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS

Grade 9

Student Last Name

A - Barry

Bato - Corbera Cabieses

Cornwell - Goodman

Goodwin - Kerjean

Kerr - Mejia Rodezno

MeKonnen - Ramirez

Ranz-Lind - Tatelbaum

Taylor - Zuniga Gonzalez

Counselor

Reveron

Palchick

DeMunter

Gordon

Toole

Henry

Showker

Khani

Grades 10 – 12

Student Last Name

A - Barrett

Barrios - Curic

Dahiya - Gonzalez

Goodman - Kesterman

Khan - Melmed

Membreno - Raisner

Ramos - Starr

Steele - Z

Counselor

Reveron

Palchick

DeMunter

Gordon

Toole

Henry

Showker

Khani

Who to see about...

- **Concern with a grade/assignment-** Students should address the teacher first at an appropriate time before or after class. If the matter is not resolved; the student can see his/her counselor or the department's resource teacher. If the matter is still not resolved, the student can see the grade level administrator.
- **Unexcused absences/potential loss of credit-** Contact the attendance secretary if you believe attendance was inaccurately recorded. Contact the grade level administrator to request consideration to make up work missed during an unexcused absence. Students who have five or more unexcused absences in any course must complete [Form 560-26A](#)
- **Questions about child's 504 plan or ELL/RELL accommodations-** Contact your child's counselor.
- **Questions about child's Individualized Educational Plan (IEP)-** contact your child's case manager or Deb Newman, Resource Teacher for Special Education (RTSE) Deborah_Newman@mcpsmd.org.

GRADE LEVEL ADMINISTRATORS

Ninth (Freshmen) Brandi Heckert

Tenth (Sophomores) Sam Levine

Eleventh (Juniors) Sharif Robinson

Twelfth (Seniors) Amy Councilman

Please note that it can take at least 24 hours for administrators and counselors to respond to emails. Any emergencies must be communicated by calling the school.

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

The knowledgeable, highly committed staff members at B-CC make the school an excellent place to grow and learn. I am pleased to introduce our newest staff members:

Brandi Heckert, Assistant Principal for 9th grade
Antonio Bullock, Building Service Worker
Karen Curry, Security Team Leader
Megan Freed, Math Teacher
Richard "Rik" Goldman, Technology Teacher
Marjorie Heberlee, Social Studies Teacher
Christopher Knocke, Chemistry Teacher
Lauren Legum, Special Education Teacher
Rachel Lindenfeld, School Psychologist
Julia Litchford, Science and Technology Teacher
Melanie Mosher, ESOL/Spanish Teacher
Maria Elena Roca Sanchez, Spanish Teacher
Matthew Shipe, Security Team Assistant
Jessica Schultz, ESOL Resource Teacher
Julie Yang, Main Office Secretary

I am looking forward to working with you and each of your children for the 2017-18 school year. Please do not hesitate to reach out to a staff member who can assist you with any questions.

Sincerely,



Donna Redmond Jones, Ph.D.
Principal

Attachments:

Parent/Child Reunification Form
Bus Schedules
PTSA Information
Your Rights Regarding Students and Directory Information (FERPA)
Cafeteria News & School Meals Information, MySchoolBucks.com