

PATHWAYS AND PERSPECTIVES



BHS SCHOOL COUNSELOR NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025

SENIOR EDITION

WELCOME BACK

We hope this newsletter finds you and your family prepared to embark on a new year. As we travel through this academic year, we wanted to share some important updates and reminders with you. We are here to support your child's academic and emotional growth, and we are excited to share in this last bit of your high school journey.

Our goal is to help your child navigate this stressful time with confidence and encouragement. We want to empower them with the tools that they will need to embark on a career path that will be both difficult and rewarding.

While this year is bound to come with its bumps and bruises, we want to make sure that our seniors are prepared for what lies ahead of them.

If your child needs assistance with courses, college applications, scholarships or simply needs someone to talk to, please encourage them to reach out to the counselor.

Two things that we cannot emphasize enough are the importance of Seniors (and senior parents) checking their email and deadlines. A large portion of important information regarding processes and deadlines will be disseminated via email.

While we are here to help, we

cannot change deadlines and protocol so please encourage your child to work closely with us and be diligent about checking their email. We are looking forward to partnering with you this year.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Hopefully, your Senior has returned with a very good idea of which schools they want to apply to. We encouraged visits over the summer and into the beginning of fall. It is important that students visit the campuses they wish to apply to. The application process looks very different from school to school. Not all colleges require the same information and documentation. We work closely with our seniors to help them complete all their applications by the deadlines. We met with all of our Seniors in their English class on September 3, 2025. We shared important information with them. We will also email that information to parents after our meeting.

SAT

Test optional college's do not require SAT scores, but we do encourage students to take the SAT's. Most often we are asked how to determine if a student should submit SAT scores. Our advice depends on where you are going but a general rule of thumb is if your scores fall in or above the middle 50% at a prospective school, you'll

likely benefit from submitting your scores. Many colleges publish SAT score percentiles for enrolled students, so you can determine where you fall.

We will be hosting an SAT school day here at BHS on **October 1, 2025**. Your student was already sent a link to register with us. The registration deadline is 9/9/25. If your child is unable to take them that day you can find other Saturday dates on the college board website.

FINANCIAL AID

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is for all college bound students. We will have Financial Aid Night on October 29, 2025, from 5-6:30 PM in the HS Cafeteria.

SCHOLARSHIPS

We encourage our seniors to utilize one of two scholarship search engines. These are most helpful in assisting students in finding and organizing scholarships. Both *Going Merry* and *FASTWEB* are recommended to students. We also have many local and in-house scholarships which we encourage students to apply. Scholarship packets are posted on our webpage under the "Senior" tab. **ALL** current local scholarships will be included in the packet and have a deadline of **March 23, 2026**.

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SCHOLARSHIPS CONT'

Should any new scholarships be developed after that deadline they will be distributed as we receive them and posted on Remind.

LINKS:

[Going Merry](#)

[Fastweb](#)

[Guidance Webpage](#)

ACT 158

This is Pennsylvania's statewide requirement of attaining proficiency on the three end-of-course Keystone Exams (Algebra I, Literature, and Biology) for a student to achieve statewide graduation requirements. Students have the option to demonstrate postsecondary preparedness through one of four additional pathways that more fully illustrate college, career, and community readiness.

If your Senior is not compliant, they will be contacted, and an alternative pathway will be advised. Most seniors that are not compliant, acceptance into a 4-year bachelor's degree program is sufficient. Secondary to that, passing the ASVAB test is the simplest pathway to follow.

EARLY COLLEGE

All seniors have had opportunities to take Early College courses through CU and LCCC. And new this year, we also have courses through Lackawanna College. These courses are free for students as long as they get a C or better grade.

COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS

If your student has taken courses through either LCCC or Commonwealth University and is looking to transfer the credits they must request transcripts from those

TRANSCRIPTS CONT'

universities on their own. BHS does not have access to college transcripts. Directions on how to access these transcripts can be found on the guidance web page under the senior tab.

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