Byron Nelson High School

Bobcat Camp

Welcome Bobcat Families
and Friends!
We are glad you're here.

STRATEGIC GOALS



STRATEGIC GOAL 1

Northwest ISD will provide **personalized learning experiences** and cultivate the **growth** and achievement of every student.

NISD PRIORITIES:

Literacy

1.1 Our students will annually increase literacy proficiency to reach or exceed grade-level standards.

Academic Progress

1.2 Our students will achieve individualized academic goals to reach a year's growth or more in all content areas.

College, Career, Military & Life Readiness

1.3 Our students will graduate life ready and prepared for success in career, college, or military service.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2

Northwest ISD will **recruit, value, and retain** highly effective staff prepared to meet the individual needs of our students and learning community.

NISD PRIORITIES:

Recruit

2.1 Northwest ISD will have an unwavering commitment to attract and welcome high-quality staff.

Value

2.2 Northwest ISD will invest in all staff through a culture of support, development, and empowerment to make a positive impact on the learning community.

Retain

2.3 Northwest ISD will retain highly effective staff through meaningful relationships, ongoing support, and professional growth opportunities.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3

Northwest ISD will foster a **safe environment** and a **culture of engagement** that values the voices of all students, staff, families, and community members.

NISD PRIORITIES:

Engagement

3.1 Northwest ISD will foster an environment of engagement with every member of our community through collaborative dialogue and partnership opportunities.

Culture

3.2 Northwest ISD will model and instill a culture of belonging where all students, staff, families, and community voices are heard and valued.

Safety

3.3 Northwest ISD will continuously improve, maintain and communicate systems of support to strengthen the physical and emotional well-being of our students, staff, and community.

BNHS Vision & Mission Statement





Vision

The vision of BNHS is to be an exemplary community empowering learners with the knowledge, skills and resources necessary for lifelong success in an ever-changing society.

Mission Statement

BNHS, in partnership with students, parents and the community, will ensure a premier education for all learners. Through innovative educational opportunities, students will be challenged, engaged, and offered leadership experiences, thereby, creating the Byron Nelson culture.



Mrs. Kara Lea Deardorff
Principal



Dr. Maggie Norris
Associate Principal

Assistant Principals

Kerry Knisley A-Bram



Ronald Mendoza Bran-Eld



Bobbie Taylor Ele-Huf



Jacob Chastain HyHug-Mar



Branden Richardson Mas-Por



Brandon Thomas Pos-Sta



Carol McDaniel-White Stb-2



Your Counseling Staff!

Jennifer Martinez,
Lead Counselor
(A-Bn)



Mcintosh
(Bran-Eld)



Page Hanna
(Ele-Huf)



Becki White
(Hug-Mar)



Christina Salcido
(Mas-Por)



Emily Shipman
(Pos-Sta)



Monique Chavez
(Stb-Z)





Ryan Laney
(Lead Intervention
Counselor)



Melissa Woodward
(Truancy Counselor)

How does a student request to meet with their counselor?

- Parental Consent
- Students can go to the Byron Nelson Counseling page:
  - Click on BNHS Counseling Team to email their counselor.
- They are also welcome to stop by before school, at lunch, or after school to make a request.
- Counselors are also available for emergencies.

High School Credits

Credits determine a student's grade level



9th grade - Freshman

0-5.5 credits

10th grade - Sophomore

6-12.5 credits

11th grade - Junior

13-18.5 credits

12th grade - Seniors

19+ credits

Grade Point Average (GPA)

Weighted GPA

is used to determine class rank (includes courses in English, math, science, social studies, world languages, and any elective course that falls into these categories)

AP/OnRamps/Dual Credit = 7.0 point scale

Honors = 6.0 point scale

On Level = 5.0 point scale

Unweighted GPA

is on a 4.0 scale and is calculated on ALL courses taken



Schedules!

Available on HAC Friday, Aug 7th at 8am

- Semester 1 may look different from semester 2. This is normal.
- There are 4 lunch periods (3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th).
- All lunch periods include students from all grade levels.
- We do not accept requests for lunch period changes.

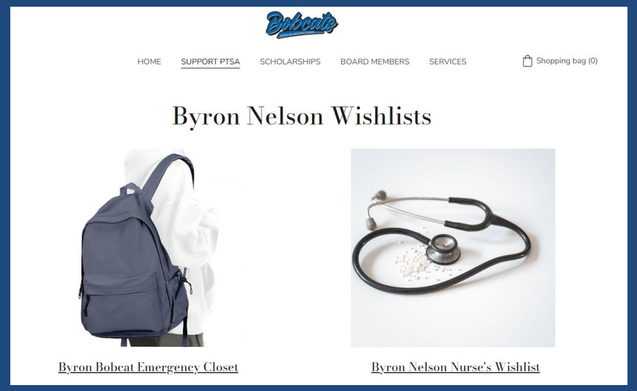


Schedule Change Requests

- Seniors not enrolled in a course REQUIRED for graduation.
- Student scheduled in a course for which they already have credit.
- Student is enrolled in a course for which the student does not have the prerequisite.
- Student has an incomplete schedule.
- Student enrolled/not enrolled in an application/audition course for which they were approved.
- Student has failed a course and needs to repeat the course.
- Change is needed as a result of a credit earned in summer school.
- REQUESTS WILL BE APPROVED ONLY FOR THE REASONS LISTED ABOVE.

2026-2027 BNHS PTSA Highlights

- National PTA Schools of Excellence
- Support BNHS Student Organizations
- Collaborate with Student Council
- Parent Programs
- Teacher Appreciation
- Reflections Art Contest
- Scholarships for Seniors
- Campus Needs







BYRON NELSON HIGH SCHOOL PTSA®
everychild. onevoice.®

www.BNHSPTSA.org

Annual membership is $13 (includes processing fee)
Join at www.JOINPTA.org

JOIN US!

Membership is $13 (includes processing fee)
@ JOINPTA.ORG

- Support for Our Kids & Our School - We are the Student Booster Club!
- Advocate for Issues that Matter
- No Required Meetings
- Volunteerism is Appreciated
- Show Teacher Appreciation
- Support Senior Scholarships

Your level of engagement is up to you, but we love having everyone's support!

BNHSPTSA.ORG



PTA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

BNHS Bell Schedule

1st	8:25-9:15
2nd	9:20-10:05
BNTV	10:05-10:15
Adv.	10:20-10:50
3rd	10:55-11:40
4th	11:45-12:30
5th	12:35-1:20
6th	1:25-2:10
7th	2:15-3:00
8th	3:05-3:50

MONDAY: Advisory

TUESDAY: Study Hall/Tutorials

WEDNESDAY: Tutorials

THURSDAY: Study Hall/ Tutorials

FRIDAY: Study Hall/Tutorials

Advisory

- Advisory is Period 9 on your student's schedule
- 30 minutes in between 2nd and 3rd periods
- Time for support from teachers, student collaboration, or independent study time
- We encourage students to use this critical time to stay organized and on track in all of their classes.

Drop Guideline for Advanced Courses

- Request forms will be electronic, and parents will have to reach out to the counselor for the link - students must talk with teacher prior to completing and submitting the form for the drop request to be considered. Please notes that we cannot guarantee that request will be approved.
- Time frame – request for change may occur:
  - Exit Window will be open from August 31st - September 18th.
  - The last five days of the first semester and the first five days of the second semester.
- Support systems are in place. Students should utilize all supports. Communication between students, teachers, and parents is very important!

Tips for Student Success

- Focus on organization and creating a routine.
- Encourage student involvement in school clubs and organizations.
- Be prepared. Attend school daily. Bring a charged laptop.
- Set academic goals with your student and enroll as a parent to monitor progress in HAC.
- Encourage students to think about their future, dreams, and goals for after graduation.
- Encourage your student to use Advisory and tutorials for academic support.
- Encourage your student to self-advocate and communicate with teachers, counselors and assistant principals.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY!

So, what is the process for that?

- STEP 1: Encourage your student to be his/her own advocate and communicate with the teacher.
- STEP 2: Attend tutorials before school, after school, or during Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday advisory tutorials.
- STEP 3: Parent and teacher communication via email.
- STEP 4: If needed, parent, teacher, and student may schedule a conference.

Required STAAR exams



Algebra I
Taken either in 8th grade or Freshmen year

Biology
Taken Freshman year

English I
Taken Freshman year

English II
Taken Sophomore year

U.S. History
Taken Junior year

How Can You Help?

- 9th grade can be a difficult transition due to greater freedom and greater expectations.
- Please "check in" with your student. Students will have homework and should stay on top of this from day 1.
- Monitor missing assignments/failing assignments in HAC and encourage them to communicate with teachers. **In HAC, you can set up parent notifications/alerts for grades and attendance.**
- Use BNHS.NISDTX.org to find teachers' Canvas pages for course information.
- Go to BNHS.NISDTX.org for school activities, testing dates, news, and upcoming events at Byron Nelson High School

Nurse/Medication Info

- Please communicate directly with the Nurse about any health concerns.

- Students cannot carry medication on their person at school. This even includes Tylenol or other OTC meds. Exceptions will be made for insulin, asthma inhalers, and EpiPens with a doctor note (form required).

- Any student caught with medicine that is not checked in will be subject to the NISD Code of Conduct. Prescriptions are of particular concern.

- All medicine MUST be checked in with the nurse and brought by a parent in its original container (no baggies).

Rachel Rivera rachael.rivera@nisdtx.org Anna Barnes anna.barnes@nisdtx.org

Attendance Info

We want your student to be successful!
Being in class everyday is a necessary part of that success.

- NISD requires a note OR email from a parent reporting an absence. Please include student's LEGAL first and last name, reason for absence, ID number (if known) and phone number.
- OR go to the BNHS website and click on "report absence" icon.
- If your child went to the doctor, please bring a medical note.
- Absence notes must be turned in to the attendance office by the end of the third (3rd) day after your student's return to campus.
- A student may have up to 6 parent excused absences per year.

You can click this image to go directly to the attendance page



Attendance for Credit

- Unexcused and excused absences are the same when earning credit.
- If a student misses more than 9 days in the first semester, he or she will lose credit.
- If your student misses 20 minutes or more of a class, he or she is counted ABSENT.
- Every class takes attendance. If a student is at school and leaves early, he or she is counted absent for those classes missed.
- If a student's attendance falls below 90%, the absences are considered excessive and students will be contacted about making up time to receive credit.

Attendance Info

- If a student loses credit due to excessive absences, he or she will not be able to get a VOE (Verification of Enrollment) form for a driver's license. The student will have to wait until they are in good standing to get a VOE.
- A VOE form is required to get their permit and driver's license. Students can request a VOE using an online link and pick it up in the front office 48 hours later.
- Please allow 24 hours for coding extracurricular absences. If after 24 hours the absence is still showing as unexcused, please contact us.
- If you receive an automated attendance phone call in the evening and you have a question, please contact attendance. We recommend having the automated system call your cell phone number.

Tardies & Drop Off

Students need to be in class ON TIME!

- Doors open early at 7:45am
- 1-8 tardies result in warnings.
- Any subsequent tardies will result in an office referral for ISS, a parent meeting, and tardy contract.
- All tardies reset every quarter

Safety and Security

STUDENT SAFETY AND SECURITY

Student safety, attendance and accountability during the school day are paramount at BNHS.

- We are a closed campus. Students **may not** leave for lunch.
- No deliveries of food/lunches are permitted, including from parents, Uber Eats, Doordash, etc.

EARLY DISMISSAL

- Please email byronnelsonHS@nisdtx.org to request an early release pass for your student.
- Students may pick up their early release pass from the attendance office and check out in the front office.
- Go to the BNHS website for instructions on requesting an early release for your students.
- Checkout procedures can be found under "Our School", then "Arrival/Dismissal Procedures"
- Please visit the BNHS Arrival/Dismissal page for more information about campus procedures. Thank you for helping us prioritize student safety and protect instructional time. Your cooperation and planning make a big difference.

IDs & Bus Pass

ID and Yearbook photos will be taken for underclassmen (9-11th graders) the first week of school on Friday, August 14th during English classes.

- Students must have their ID during school at all times.
- NEW - IDs will now serve as their Bus ID as well
- If a student does not have one, they must purchase a new ID, and a fine of $4 will be assessed on his or her account.
- Students are only allowed to "charge" up to 10 IDs.
- You can also access fees in Home Access Center (HAC).

Northwest
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

TEXAS HOUSE BILL 1481

In line with Texas Education Code §37.083, as amended by HB 1481, all district campuses will implement a policy that prohibits students from using personal communication devices during the school day. Students are required to have their cell phones and other personal communications devices "off and away" in their backpack during the school day. This includes classroom instruction, passing periods and lunch. District-issued chromebooks and devices are unaffected by the law.

Medical exemptions exist for some students supported by special education or 504 services. Activities before and after the school day, such as riding the bus or extracurricular activities, are unaffected by the new law.

STUDENTS:

- Use NISD-issued chromebook for academics.
- Keep all other electronic communication devices at home or "off and away" in backpack during the school day.

FAMILIES:

- Support a focused instructional environment.
- Adjust family communications to before and after school, contacting the front office for vital or emergency needs.

CAMPUS:

- Maintain a focused instructional environment.
- Support families and students in need of access to real-time communication through the front office.

PROHIBITED DEVICES:



Or any other personal electronic device capable of telecommunication or digital communication.

DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

1
- Device confiscated and returned to student at the end of day
- Student conference / warning
- Parent contact

2
- Device confiscated and returned to student at the end of day
- Detention/ECO
- Parent contact

3
- Device confiscated and released only to parent
- 1 day ISS
- Behavior contract

4
- Device confiscated and released only to parent
- 3 days ISS

Offense	Consequence
1st Offense	• Device confiscated and returned to student at the end of day • Student conference/warning • Parent contact
2nd Offense	• Device confiscated and returned to student at the end of day • Detention/ECO • Parent contact
3rd Offense	• Device confiscated and released only to parent • 1 day ISS • Behavior contract
4th Offense	• Device confiscated and released only to parent • 3 days ISS
5th Offense	• Device confiscated and released only to parent • 5 days ISS
6th Offense & Beyond	• Device confiscated and released only to parent • Discretionary DAEP placement

Walk Your Schedule

Tuesday, August 11 | 4:00–6:00 PM

*Students are invited to stop by and **walk their class schedule before the first day of school!***

*The building will be open-house style from **4:00–6:00 PM**, giving students a chance to find their classrooms, learn their way around, and feel more comfortable navigating the building.*

***Please note:** Teachers will not be available during this time. This is simply an opportunity for students to get acclimated to the building and feel a little more prepared for the first day!*

Dress Code

Basic Principles to Consider:

- Clothing must fully cover undergarments.
- Undergarments should not be visible.
- All private parts must be fully covered by fabric.
- Stomach and back must also be fully covered.
- Clothing with obscene or violent language or images are prohibited.
- Images or language depicting drugs or alcohol are prohibited.
- Hate speech, profanity, pornography are prohibited.

PLEASE REVIEW THE ENTIRE DRESS CODE POLICY WITH YOUR STUDENT THE NISD STUDENT HANDBOOK AT NISDTX.ORG. ANY STUDENT VIOLATING THE DRESS CODE WILL BE REFERRED TO THEIR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL.

FIND YOUR FAVORITE

Explore all your daily lunch choices.

UNDER THE HOOD · TRATTORIA ITALIAN KITCHEN · Sweet Pickles · LIMON & CHILE MEXICAN TAQUERIA · THE IRON SKILLET

2026-27 High School Meal Prices:

Breakfast: $3.10
Reduced Price: $1.00
Free: $0.00

Lunch: $5.60
Reduced Price: $2.00
Free: $0.00

Note: Local Restaurant Row vendors set their own prices. Their items are available for purchase a la carte.

nutrislice

View Daily Menus On The Go

With Nutrislice

You can check out our daily menus on the go at **nisdtx.nutrislice.com** or by downloading the Nutrislice app!

MY SCHOOL BUCKS

Families can add funds to student meal accounts with cash, check, or online at **myschoolbucks.com**.

Students can also pay with debit or credit card. Apple Pay is not accepted at this time.



FREE & REDUCED MEAL APPLICATION

Free meals are available for eligible students through the Free & Reduced Meals Program. Families must submit a new application each school year.

Scan the QR code or go to **NorthwestISD.SchoolLunchApp.com** to apply.
Contact yen.brown2@nisdtx.org with any questions.



SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?

For students with special dietary needs, including food allergies, please visit **www.nisdtx.org/departments/food-services/special-dietary-needs** to complete our Special Dietary Needs form.

Cafeteria Manager Contact Information:
Alex.Ishchenko@nisdtx.org
(817) 698-5720

Extracurriculars & Clubs

BNHS WANTS EVERY STUDENT TO MAKE A CONNECTION.

- Clubs/Organizations/Community Service allow students to feel more connected to BNHS, their peers, the community, and provides opportunities for enrichment and personal growth.
- Clubs can meet before school and after school.
- For a complete list, go to the BNHS website, click on "Programs and Activities" and then select "Extra/Co-Curricular."

Can't find a club your student wants to join?
Have them see Asst. Principal, Carol McDaniel-White to START their own club!

Expectations of Bobcats!

- Be a person of character!
  - Learn, Serve, Lead
- LEARN what it means to be a Byron Nelson Bobcat.
- SERVE your school and your community.
- LEAD through respect for yourself, others, family, and our school community.



Integrity

Learn-Serve-Lead



September

Golden Key of Responsibility



October

Silver Arrow of Honesty



November

Regal Heart of Compassion



December

Noble Hand of Respect



January

Royal Shield of Courage

Byron Character Traits

Golden Key of Responsibility	Silver Arrow of Honesty	Regal Heart of Compassion
It is given to students who accept and take the necessary action to bring an assigned task to a successful completion.	It is given to students who are found to be trustworthy and upright through a sincere and straightforward way of life.	It is given to students who take into account the distress of others and attempt to alleviate their suffering through acts of kindness. They seek to benefit others by bringing joy to life.
September	*October*	*November*

Byron Character Traits

Noble Hand of Respect	Royal Shield of Courage
Is given to students who take others' feelings, needs, thoughts, ideas and wishes into consideration and gives them worth and value.	It is awarded to students who show a steadfast adherence to a moral or ethical code and are capable of facing danger and fear with confidence and resolution.
December	*January*

Upcoming Events

Homecoming Week – October 19th - 23rd

- **Parade** – Wednesday, October 21st
- **Football Game** - Friday, October 23rd
- **Dance** - Saturday, October 24th





Byron Nelson Stadium Expansion In Progress



Byron Nelson Stadium Expansion In Progress



Byron Nelson Stadium Expansion In Progress



Byron Nelson Performing Art Center Expansion - COMPLETED!



Byron Nelson Gymnasium Expansion Started March 2026



Byron Nelson Gymnasium Expansion

Estimated Completion - March 2027

Follow us on Social Media

Byron Nelson HS
Social Media

@ByronNelsonHigh

@ByronNelsonHS

Byron Nelson High School
Official School Page

Thank you for coming!



Please exit the building quickly so we can begin student rotations. Thank you!

Please pick up your student in front of the building or bus loop at 8:30 pm, or 9:30 pm if they are attending the mixer.



We are thrilled to have you as part of Bobcat Nation!