



## EVOLVING BHS REDESIGN PROPOSAL

*PTSA/BHS Public Forum – Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>*

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the BHS School Governance Council (SGC) voted to approve a revised version of the Design Committee's original proposal for programmatic changes at Berkeley High. A public forum is being jointly presented by BHS admin and the PTSA on **Tuesday, February 3, 2009** to 1) provide an explanation of the revised portions of the plan, and 2) to give a comprehensive overview of why change is necessary at Berkeley High and how it will better address our students' needs. A variety of District and outside speakers will be presenting in what should be a very important and informative meeting.

**Original Proposal:** The original proposal, as presented at November's SGC meeting, recommended a number of significant programmatic changes designed to address the school's considerable achievement gap. The key components of the recommendations are the creation of advisories, more professional development for teachers, an increased personalization approach, a change to a 4x2 alternating block schedule, community access periods, an increase in teacher prep time, a 25% reduction in instructional time in each class, and the creation of a 7<sup>th</sup> small school on the BHS campus.

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## BERKELEY HIGH OPEN HOUSE

The staff of Berkeley High School cordially invites you to Open House on Thursday, February 26, 2009. This evening is one of the most important events of the school year as it gives the families of the students we serve an opportunity to meet with the staff, explore the campus, and check in with teachers. We encourage all families to attend if possible, and look forward to having you all on campus.

The evening will begin at 7:00 p.m. with families following abbreviated versions of their student's schedules as they meet teachers in their respective classrooms for ten minute informational sessions. During these meetings, teachers will discuss their courses and answer questions about class content and procedures. There will be six minutes of travel time between classes. Throughout the evening, families will also have a chance to meet with administrators and counselors, and enjoy coffee, tea, and cookies in the Food Court.

Please note that while our students are most important to us, this is in fact an evening for adults. For students who do attend, they must remain with you throughout the evening. In addition, Open House is not designed to address specific questions about individual students; however, should you have questions or concerns, please call or e-mail your child's teachers at any time.

The Berkeley High School staff looks forward to seeing you on Thursday, Feb. 26.

*Vernon Walton, BHS VP*

## BUEN DÍA

Al acercarnos al final del primer semestre, es muy importante que su estudiante tenga acceso a la ayuda académica que el/ella necesita. Deben de haber recibido los reportes de calificaciones, y basado en las notas, puede que su estudiante necesite ayuda con algunas sus clases. Los maestros son el primer punto de ayuda para los estudiantes. Recomiéndele a su estudiante que hable con su maestro/a si tiene alguna duda o no han entendido el material enseñado en la clase. Los maestros/as están en la posición de brindarle a su estudiante la ayuda que necesite. Si su estudiante necesita ayuda adicional, la escuela cuenta con muchos programas de tutoría, como el *Student Learning Center*, donde los estudiantes pueden recibir tutoría en cualquier asignatura, de lunes a viernes, 3:15pm a 6:00pm. Oscar Rojas-Soto ([oscares@berkeley.k12.ca.us](mailto:oscares@berkeley.k12.ca.us)) es la persona encargada del centro de tutoría. De manera adicional, *BHS Development Group* cubre los costos de un programa de tutoría en el cual muchos de los maestros de BHS están disponibles para ayudar a nuestros estudiantes después de clases. Usted podrá encontrar una lista de las asignaturas y horarios de estas clases de tutoría en esta hoja informativa.

### **College Career Center – Centro Universitario Vocacional**

**1ero de Enero:** Primer día para llenar FAFSA (Solicitud Gratuita para Ayuda Financiera Federal). El Centro Universitario Vocacional tendrá talleres para ayudarles a llenar la solicitud FAFSA. Estén pendientes

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# BHS LIVE! 2009: FUNDING OUR FUTURE – YES WE CAN!

-- Save the Date: Sunday, March 8, 2009 --

5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Berkeley Honda, 2600 Shattuck Avenue

-- Silent Auction and Live Auction --

*Benefiting the BHS Development Group and Berkeley Athletic Fund – supporting BHS students and teachers through tutoring, classroom grants, technology and athletics.*

## HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE:

**Become a Sponsor for BHS Live! 2009** -- The greater community of Berkeley supports BHS. Extend your support by becoming a sponsor. Contact Susan Helmrich at [shelmrich@aol.com](mailto:shelmrich@aol.com) or MK Murlas at [murlas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:murlas@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

**Food Donations** -- We are looking for food donations to Berkeley High Live 2009! If you or someone you know is a restaurateur, caterer or purveyor of wine or food, please let us know! Contact Sara Herman at [sarahscape@earthlink.net](mailto:sarahscape@earthlink.net).

**Silent and Live Auction** -- Please contribute to our live and silent auction. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Armor at [jenniferarmor@comcast.net](mailto:jenniferarmor@comcast.net). Donation forms are available online at [www.BerkeleyAthleticFund.org](http://www.BerkeleyAthleticFund.org).

**Tickets** -- Purchase tickets from Brown Paper Tickets ([www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)) or at BHS basketball games or at BHS Open House (February 26).

**Berkeley High School Development Group -- non-profit tax ID# 94-3173406**

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## HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM

The California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) will be administered to all tenth graders and seniors who have not yet passed either or both section on Tuesday, February 3rd (English) and Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> (Math). Your child must meet the CAHSEE requirement as well as other state and local requirements to receive a high school diploma. The CAHSEE is divided into two parts: (1) English-language arts, which includes reading and writing, and (2) Mathematics. All questions on the examination are aligned to California academic content standards, adopted by the State Board of Education.

The exam will be administered at the school site during regular school hours. Tenth graders will be located in either the Donahue or the Jacket Gym according to alphabet. Seniors should report to the lobby of the Community Theatre. ELL Students should report to the College and Career Center. All students should report to their test location by 8:00 AM. Reminders regarding location will be announced in classes, via etree and via the bulletin.

If your child has an IEP, please contact his or her case manager for test location and accommodations.

The State allows us to test all juniors two times and seniors at least three and up to five times during the 2008-2009 school year. There have already been two opportunities to take the exam. In the Spring, seniors can take the exam on February 3 and 4, and both seniors and juniors can take the exam on March 17 and 18.

Individual student results will be received by our school district ten weeks after the exam is given. Your child's

results will be sent to your home as soon as they are available. Berkeley High will provide additional instruction to juniors and seniors to ensure your child's success on this exam. Contact your child's counselor to find out about CAHSEE support classes.

All students must take the CAHSEE, including English learners and students with disabilities. Students who take the CAHSEE with modifications will be scored using alternate scoring criteria. Further information about CAHSEE is available on the California Department of Education Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs>.

The Exit Exam is important and we want our students to have a calm and orderly test taking venue. In order to do so, we are asking the community's help checking in students, monitoring the test, collecting the booklets and then redistributing them the following day. We need volunteers on three shifts 7:15 to 8:30 AM, 8:30 AM to noon and noon to 3 PM. Some parking passes are available.

- The first shift will be in charge of making sure each student has the proper test and answer sheet.
- The second shift will help monitor the test and start collecting and organizing the completed tests.
- The third shift will continue to monitor and organize the returned tests.

If you can help, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Janet Huseby at [jhuseby@pacbell.net](mailto:jhuseby@pacbell.net)

*Kristin Glenchur  
Vice-Principal, Berkeley High*

# FROM THE COLLEGE ADVISOR

## The California Budget Shortage and Higher Education

The impact of the economic crisis is pretty terrible, and I'm sure you are thinking about what it will mean in college admissions. Due to the budget shortfall, the governor has recommended cutting the California State University budget by an additional \$65 million, in addition to the \$33 billion cut earlier this year. As a result, the Cal State governing board has decided to reduce the number of students attending the 23 Cal State campuses next year by 10,000. To meet this goal, many Cal State campuses closed their application period on November 30. In addition, students who are Cal State eligible will only be guaranteed admission at their local campus – in our case, Cal State East Bay. However, some other campuses have admitted Berkeley High students, including San Francisco, Humboldt, and Sacramento. The UC Board has recently voted to reduce the number of freshmen next year by 2,300 students due to a \$122 million shortfall.

While the legislators say they do not want to raise taxes, these developments constitute a tax on families seeking college options. It is clear that the burden of these cuts will fall most heavily on low income students as they tend to take their SAT or ACT tests later and do not have as much access to test prep materials which can help them increase their test scores and become eligible for admission to the Cal State campuses.

The Cal State University system is critical to the economy of California and is the largest provider of the workforce in California. One of the Cal State trustees, William Hauck, commented, "The CSU system depends predominately on the general fund for about 400,000 plus students who are crucial... to the California economy. We graduate in excess of 90,000 stu-dents...each year and they are all out in the workforce in the jobs ... If we go for a year or two or three or four graduating 10,000 or 15,000 fewer students, that's pretty quickly going to add up to a lot of people that are needed in the workforce that are not going to be there."

Trustee Herb Carter, added, "For every dollar that is spent on a student in higher education in this state in the CSU, we give back to the state something in the neighborhood of \$4.75. So this is not charity for students; this is in the best interest of the state of California."

What they didn't say was what would happen to those adults who did not have the opportunity to get the education they needed to find a fulfilling job to support themselves and their families. In many ways, the state's philosophy has moved from seeing education as a public good (for the future of society and the economy) to regarding it as a private benefit to be purchased in the marketplace. I am deeply concerned that the state is able to find money for prisons and not for the education needed for our children. If you would like to read a fascinating discussion about these issues, check <http://www.calstate.edu/executive/multimedia/2008/CampusImpaction08-transcript.pdf> . Please write to the governor and legislators to let them know your thoughts on this issue.

In spite of these difficult conditions, we want families to recognize that it is not all a situation of doom and gloom. The federal Pell grants are still guaranteed for low income families and the state government is still funding Cal Grants for all eligible students. The vast majority of Cal State eligible students will be accepted to at least one campus. Students will still be able to find an interesting, engaging, and challenging college experience. But it is important to think and plan a little differently. All Cal State eligible students should apply to Cal State East Bay, since they are guaranteeing admission to all students in their region, of which Berkeley High is a part, and will accept applications until March 1. Students should also consider starting at a community college and then transferring to a four year college to complete their junior and senior years. These schools are less expensive than the four year public schools and have the added benefit of smaller classes as well as having all classes taught by professors, not graduate students.

**FOR SENIORS:** By the time you receive this newsletter your students will have completed all of their UC applications and all (or most) of their Cal State and private school applications. We have sent out nearly all letters of recommendations. Thanks so much to our hard-working registrar, Barbara Mellion, who checked, updated and mailed nearly two thousand transcripts and got them to the colleges. Much appreciation to our hard-working counselors and teachers who spent countless hours writing recommendations for the seniors. Each recommendation can take more than an hour to write and they spent many after school hours, nights and weekends working on them. Please ask your students to take time to write them a thank you note, if they haven't already.

A special thank you also to Janet Huseby, who coordinated the essay readers this fall (and read numerous essays herself), as she has done for many years. Readers met with students every day before school, during lunch and after school. Janet stopped by nearly every day, even if she wasn't on the schedule, to make sure that all of the students' needs were met. And a big thanks to our great crew of readers -- Linda Artel, Laurie Bronson, Vicky Elliott, Abby Ginzberg, Trish Hawthorne, Janet Huseby, Mona Kafoury, Brenda Kahn, Vicki Laden, Wendy Morrison, Hilary Roberts, Sara Sanderson, Eva Schlesinger, Ellen Singer-Vine, Catherine Stern, Tami Uecker and Jim Walker -- the time and energy you put in was invaluable to our students.

If your students are still working on applications, please encourage them to file them prior to the application deadline and to call the admissions office (except for UC's and Cal States) and confirm that the application has been received.

## **Financial Aid**

**FAFSA** – The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is required by all colleges. The deadline for filing this form is March 2 for all of the California public schools.

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# College Advisor – cont. from page 3

However, other schools may have much earlier deadlines. It is very important to check the financial aid website of each college to determine their deadline and what forms they require. Fill out the FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) . DO NOT USE FAFSA.COM!

For more information on financial aid, go to our website at <http://bhs.berkeley.net/index.php?page=home-2> and click on "Financial Aid."

**February 5** - Deadline to turn in the Cal Grant GPA Information Release Form to Ms. Mellion in D173. This is a very simple form to complete, but must be signed by a parent or guardian if the student is under 18. The Cal Grant is gift aid (does not have to be repaid) for a student to attend any accredited college in California, whether public or private. It can be used at two and four year colleges as well as some vocational schools. Students become eligible based on their grade point average and family income. All that is required to apply is the Cal Grant GPA Information Release Form and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid listing a California school. We encourage everyone to apply. If you do not believe that you qualify for financial aid, apply anyway as sometimes a family's financial situation can change suddenly due to loss of a job or serious illness.

Some students may just now realize that they have not applied to any "insurance" schools, schools where they are very likely to be accepted. There are schools with later deadlines and so it is not too late to add to their list. Please ask them to see me or Ms. Price as soon as possible if they would like to discuss this possibility.

We have seen the dread disease, senioritis, creeping into the minds of some seniors. They are skipping classes and missing deadlines for turning in homework. Please remind your students that all college acceptances are conditional on students keeping their grades up. If a student's grades go down, the college can and will revoke the acceptance. This happens every year and is devastating when it occurs. Senior grades do count!

**February 11 – CASH FOR COLLEGE NIGHT. 6:30 pm, BHS library.** Get help filling out your FAFSA. Bring in your income and asset information and get all of your questions answered. In addition, if more than 25 students and/or parents attend, one student will win a \$1,000 scholarship; if more than 75 attend, two will win a scholarship. Don't miss this great opportunity! The event will be held in English and Spanish.

## **Scholarships**

If your student hasn't already started looking, now is the time for him or her to start researching scholarships. In most cases, these scholarships from private organizations and businesses can be used at any accredited college in the U.S.

(and sometimes abroad). Students can reduce their loan debt using the money they receive from private scholarships. Reputable scholarship search engines are: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) and [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) . Most of these scholarships are available to students from all over the U.S. However, in the College/Career Center we maintain a box of applications for scholarships that are for students in the local area. Since there is less competition, your student may be more likely to win the scholarship. Please encourage your students to check the box regularly as new scholarships come in often. The list of scholarships is also available on the College/Career Center website: <http://bhs.berkeley.net/index.php?page=scholarships>.

**FOR SOPHOMORES:** The college advisors and counselors are working with sophomores to teach them about the variety of colleges available to them, what classes and college entrance exams they need to take, and how to research colleges and financial aid. Each sophomore English class has already visited the College/Career Center to research colleges, evaluated their transcript, filled out a sample application. In February or March will have the opportunity to visit two colleges with their English class. We want to thank the Berkeley High School Development Group for helping to fund the Sophomore College Experience.

**FOR JUNIORS:** JUNIOR PARENT/GUARDIAN NIGHT – Tuesday, February 3, 6:30 pm in the Berkeley High library. The College Advisors will provide an overview of the college application process and answer questions for junior families.

Ms. Price and I will be meeting with every junior English class at the beginning of second semester. Our goal is to provide students with general information about the college process and help students to start thinking about the future. After all of the classroom presentations have been completed, we will set up small group meetings with students which will focus directly on the interests, goals and questions of each student.

Junior year grades are important in the college admissions process so please encourage your students to ask questions and get help if they don't understand all of the material presented in class. Most teachers have time set aside to help students. Also encourage students to get tutoring help in the Student Learning Center (D221) every day after school.

As always, please feel free to contact me or Ms. Price via e-mail ([iabrams@berkeley.k12.ca.us](mailto:iabrams@berkeley.k12.ca.us), [angela\\_price@berkeley.k12.ca.us](mailto:angela_price@berkeley.k12.ca.us)) or phone (644-6804, 644-4576). For shorter questions, e-mail is the best way to reach us as we can respond more quickly than by phone.

*Ilene Abrams*

# RESOURCES FOR SAFE INTERNET USE AT HOME

Does your child spend significant amounts of time on the Internet? Are you sure that he/she, yourself (legal responsibilities, private information), and your computer are protected? Please see the list of Cyber-Safety and Cyber-Ethics resources below to help inform and guide your home Internet use decisions.

## Recommended Reading:

- **MySpace Unraveled** -- <http://www.myspaceunraveled.com> -- Step by step explanation of how to use MySpace and other social networking tools safely and responsibly
- **Cyber-Safe Kids, Cyber-Savvy Teens** -<http://cskcst.com>-"Educator, lawyer, mom and internet safety expert, Nancy Willard" offers advice and strategies to address online -- safety for teens, including cyber-bullying.
- **Born Digital: Understanding the First Generation of Digital Natives** - John Palfrey and Urs Gasser -- How the first generation of digital natives arriving to adulthood will affect our world.
- **Norton Family Online Safety Guide** -- Free Educational .pdf guide (available in English and Spanish) of practical tips on how to keep kids safe on the Internet

More resources can be found at: [http://www.ctap4.org/cybersafety/admin\\_parents.htm](http://www.ctap4.org/cybersafety/admin_parents.htm)

## Recommended Websites:

- **Common Sense Media** <http://www.common sense media.org/about-us/our-mission>We exist because media and entertainment profoundly impact the social, emotional, and physical development of our nation's children. As a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization, we provide trustworthy information and tools, as well as an independent forum, so that families can have a choice and a voice about the media they consume.
- **Cyber Safety for Children** <http://www.cybersafety.ca.gov/default.asp> -- Cyber Safety for Children is a partnership between the California Office of Privacy Protection and the California Coalition for Children's Internet Safety. The members of the Coalition bring a pool of knowledge and experience, as they are among the leading experts in their fields. Together we are working toward the common goal of facilitating the safe, smart and legal use of the Internet by our children. With the help of the Coalition, the Office of Privacy Protection provides this Web site of resources for parents, educators, and community leaders. We also offer a series of educational programs for parents and educators.
- **iSafe - The Leader in eSafety Education** <http://www.isafe.org/i-SAFE> Inc. is the worldwide leader in Internet safety education. Founded in 1998 and endorsed by the U.S. Congress, i-SAFE is a non-profit foundation dedicated to protecting the online experiences of youth everywhere.
- **Teacher Tube** <http://www.teachertube.com/about.php> -- Our goal is to provide an online community for sharing instructional videos. We seek to fill a need for a more educationally focused, safe venue for teachers, schools, and home learners. It is a site to provide anytime, anywhere.

1 Cyber-safety/Ethics – Jensen

*Crystal Jensen, M.Ed, Berkeley High School Technology Coordinator*

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## THE BHS ULTIMATE FRISBEE CLUB

Is your son or daughter interested in a fun, fast-moving, athletic sport but hasn't found the right fit? The Berkeley High School Ultimate Frisbee Club would like to invite your student to try out this fast growing sport. Ultimate is unique among the sports at BHS -- it is coed, self-officiated, and player-governed. It combines the speed, athleticism and strategy of soccer, football, lacrosse and basketball. Our club is led by two certified coaches with national level experience. We play weekend games and tournaments against local high schools in both fall and spring. The club has fielded a team that has gone to the state championships in May each of the last two years and placed respectably each time.

Practices are Sunday afternoons all school year, plus one to two weekday afternoons during fall and spring. Contact the coaches for specific time and locations. Bring cleats and water, as well as a white shirt and a black (or dark) shirt. No metal-tipped cleats please. Expect to run a lot and have a great time. Girls and boys at all levels from beginner to highly experienced are encouraged to drop in and give it a try. For more info, or to join the listserve, email [BHS.Ultimate@gmail.com](mailto:BHS.Ultimate@gmail.com)

*Coach Jordan Rose [jordaneous@yahoo.com](mailto:jordaneous@yahoo.com) 599-2254  
Coach Michael Angell [Angell@lettis.com](mailto:Angell@lettis.com) 685-6426*

# REGISTRATION FOR INCOMING NON-BUSD STUDENTS

**Next Steps for Families coming to Berkeley High School from non-BUSD middle schools:** The dates for registration for families from non-BUSD schools are fast approaching. We would like to suggest the following guidelines to make the admissions and registration process smoother for all people involved. Entering Berkeley High School from a middle school outside the BUSD is a two-step process that includes:

1. Admissions
2. Course Selection

The following is an outline of how and when to begin the process:

## ADMISSIONS (STEP 1)

To begin the admissions processes, sometime **after Wednesday, January 21, 2009** please, fill out the register form online at <http://bhs.berkeley.net/ProspectiveFamilies>. If you do not have computer access, a computer will be provided at the time of your registering/admissions appointment, but it will be faster if you have submitted your information electronically before going to the Admissions Office. Free computer access is available at all Berkeley libraries. After you fill out the register form please attend one of the following admissions/registering dates below.

**Beginning on February 9, 2009**, students coming to Berkeley High School from non-BUSD schools can begin registering at the admissions office at **1835 Allston Way** in Berkeley (510) 644-6504. **The Admissions Office is open from 8 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm.** In order to minimize wait times, we are advising that new families adhere to the following schedule for the admissions process:

If the student's last name begins with...	Please come to admissions on...
<b>A-F</b>	<b>February 9</b>
<b>G-L</b>	<b>February 10</b>
<b>M-S</b>	<b>February 11</b>
<b>T-Z</b>	<b>February 12</b>

If you are absolutely unable to make your assigned time, we will accommodate you; however, please keep in mind that adherence to the schedule above will help us manage the volume of students processing each day and subsequently allow us to serve all families in a more efficient manner. It is also important to note that whether you registered in January at a BUSD middle school, or whether you are registering in February, you will enter the first BHS lottery held in March. Again, where the lottery is concerned, no preference or priority is given for when you register.

On your registering day, **(the Admissions Office is open**

**from 8 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm)** bring the original and a copy of the following documents to **1835 Allston Way**:

- 1) A Birth Certificate.
- 2) Proof of Berkeley residence – originals of any THREE from the following list of CURRENT documentation, including at least one from category “d”, that is imprinted with the name and Berkeley address of the parent/guardian will be required to establish proof of residency:
  - a) California Driver's License or ID.
  - b) Current bank statement.
  - c) Action letter from Social Services, a letter from the State Office for Medi-Cal, a letter from the employer on company letterhead or a paycheck stub.
  - d) PG&E bill, phone bill (non-cellular), EBMUD bill, garbage bill or cable bill.
- 3) Proof of immunization for polio, DPT (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis B and chickenpox is required by **STATE LAW**.
- 4) Copy of latest report card, transcript or some kind of grade proof.

Students residing with someone other than their parents must also complete a Caregiver Form. Homeless families should contact Nancy Johnson in Room 5, or call her at 644-6529.

Again, we will accommodate exceptions to the schedule, but please be sensitive and come at your assigned time if at all possible. This should allow a more expeditious process for all families.

## COURSE SELECTION (STEP 2)

Beginning on February 17th, incoming students from non-BUSD schools will attend course selection sessions. After completing steps 1 and 2 above, students will attend sessions in the BHS library based on the following schedule:

**Tuesday, February 17, 6:30 p.m. Last names A-L**  
**Thursday, February 19, 6:30 p.m. Last names M-Z**

There will be one makeup session held on **Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.** Again, we will accommodate those families where circumstances prevent them from registering on their assigned days, but please try, as much as possible, to attend at the allotted time.

*What should I expect during these course selection sessions?*

On those evenings, families will report to the Berkeley High School library at 6:30 p.m. for a 20-minute presentation which includes a review of program and course offerings at BHS. Following the presentation, parents will proceed to the food court for refreshments, get additional information, and

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# REGISTRATION FOR INCOMING BUSD STUDENTS

## Next Steps for registration and scheduling for students attending BUSD middle schools:

The dates for registration and scheduling for families from BUSD middle schools are fast approaching. We would like to suggest the following guidelines to make the registration and scheduling process smoother for all people involved.

Representatives from Berkeley High School will visit each of the three BUSD middle schools over the next several weeks to conduct the scheduling process. This process includes a daytime student assembly where current BHS students will discuss their experiences with middle school students. Later that evening, administrators and counselors will give a brief presentation in both English and Spanish which will review the program choices at BHS. During that same week, high school counselors will come to the middle schools to guide students through the course request and program selection process. It is important to note that whether you are on-line scheduling in January or February your student will enter the first lottery in March for small schools or learning communities at the same time as everyone else.

### Willard Middle School

#### **Tuesday, January 27, 2009**

10:00 a.m. Student Assembly  
6:00 p.m.-6:45 pm Curriculum Presentations in Spanish  
7:00 p.m.-7:45 pm Curriculum Presentations in English

#### **Wednesday, January 28-Friday, January 30, 2009**

Online scheduling for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Willard.

### Longfellow Middle School

#### **Monday, February 9, 2009**

10:00 a.m. Student Assembly  
6:00 p.m.-6:45 pm Curriculum Presentations in Spanish  
7:00 p.m.-7:45 pm Curriculum Presentations in English

#### **Wednesday, February 11-Thursdays, February 12, 2008**

Online scheduling for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Longfellow.

### King Middle School

#### **Tuesday, February 3, 2009**

10:00 a.m. Student Assembly  
6:00 p.m.-6:45 pm Curriculum Presentations in Spanish  
7:00 p.m.-7:45 pm Curriculum Presentations in English

#### **Wednesday, February 4-Friday, February 6, 2009**

Online scheduling for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at King.

## Non-BUSD Students Registration – cont. from page 6

fill out envelopes so that we can mail hard copies of course selections to your homes.

During this time, counselors will escort students to computer labs to complete the online scheduling process. As this is a big first step towards the independence that helps students be successful in high school, and given the spatial limitations in the computer labs, parents will not be in the classrooms/labs during the scheduling process. In light of this, it is extremely important that you and your child have extensive discussion about their selections prior to the course selection sessions. If you still need a course catalog, they are available from the BHS administrative offices.

*\*Note: It is essential that the student bring their student ID # to the Course Selection Sessions. Student ID #'s will be in the upper right hand corner of the pink assignment form you will receive during the admissions process.*

We are aware that our deadlines are early. If your student decides not to attend Berkeley High School, please let us know as soon as possible by calling Belinda McDaniel at (510) 644-4800. We look forward to working with you during this transition, and will be happy to answer additional questions as we move toward welcoming you to Berkeley High School.

Cordially,  
Amy Frey, Vice Principal

## FROM THE LIBRARY

Thanks to our generous BSEP budget for library materials, the library has received many wonderful new books already this school year. Whether you are traveling or staying close to home, be sure your students have plenty to read during winter break. Remind them to come to the library to check out books that appeal to them. We are still seeking additional volunteers to supervise our library computer lab during lunch (11:30 – 12:15) and after school (3:15 – 4:30). Please contact Teacher Librarian Alex Provence at 644-6857 or [aprovence@berkeley.k12.ca.us](mailto:aprovence@berkeley.k12.ca.us) to sign up and receive training.

Learn to help your student use our online subscription databases by coming to one of the library's after-school workshops. Contact Teacher/Librarian Ellie Goldstein-Erickson at 644-6857 or [ellie@berkeley.k12.ca.us](mailto:ellie@berkeley.k12.ca.us) to take advantage of this opportunity to explore the rich online resources available to our students and their families. We wish you a joyous and relaxing holiday season, with plenty of time to read!

Alex Provence & Ellie Goldstein-Erickson  
Teacher Librarians

# ATHLETIC NEWS

**Spring Season 2009 starts on Monday, February 2.** Student athletes **MUST** have a completed athletic packet, including physical, turned in to the AD office before trying out on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Save the Date: Second Annual Golf Classic** – Tilden Park Golf Course, Friday May 1, 2009. More details and entry form at [www.BerkeleyAthleticFund.org](http://www.BerkeleyAthleticFund.org) or contact Manish Doshi at 510-301-1747.

## WINTER 2008-09 SPORTS ARE UNDERWAY

*Schedules online at [www.BerkeleyAthleticFund.org](http://www.BerkeleyAthleticFund.org)*

**Varsity, JV, Freshman Boys Basketball**, Head Coach Brian Guinn

**Varsity, JV, Freshman Girls Basketball**, Interim Head Coach Gene Nakamura

**Varsity, JV, Freshman Boys Soccer**, Head Coach Philip Scicluna

**Varsity, JV, Freshman Girls Soccer**, Head Coach Suzanne Sillett

**Boys and Girls Wrestling**, Head Coaches Gabriel and Rudy T. Cruz

**V, JV, Novice Boys and Girls Crew**: Winter Season Coach Chris Dadd ([thecrew4bhs@earthlink.net](mailto:thecrew4bhs@earthlink.net))

## FALL 2008-09 SPORTS RESULTS

**Varsity Boys Water Polo** - ACCAL Champions, first round NCS playoffs

**Varsity Football** - ACCAL Champions, first round NCS playoffs

**Varsity Field Hockey** – Strong finish in the West Valley Division of the Blossom Valley Athletic League

**Varsity Girls Volleyball** - ACCAL Champions, first round NCS playoffs

**Varsity Girls Golf** – had a great season and are looking forward to next year

**Varsity Boys Cross Country** - ACCAL second place, advanced to NCS Meet of Champions. Austin Snyder won the ACCAL championship title with a time of 17:03 seconds for the 3.1 mile Kennedy Grove course

**Varsity Girls Cross Country** - ACCAL second place, advanced to NCS Meet of Champions

**Varsity Girls Tennis** – had a strong season with new coach Mark Chrisler

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## ALL ABOUT BSEP

*Measure A Tax Money at Work*

Ever wondered how this special Berkeley tax for supplementing education is used?

The Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2006 (Measure A, commonly known as BSEP) funds programs to enhance student learning by “providing programs designed to improve the academic proficiency of all students through effective instructions, a challenging and engaging curriculum, and addressing the needs of the whole child.” This measure was approved by 80% of the voters and is in effect until 2017. It comprises 20% of the BUSD budget and pays for 30% of the classroom teachers. This year the 2007 taxes brought in \$21 million. Extensive community involvement in oversight committees is part of the measure.

Most of the money is designated for overall Berkeley Unified School District use -- largely going to increase the teacher to student ratio (66%) and for school enrichment programs such as music, arts and libraries. A small percentage (10%) is allotted for discretionary use by each school site. These discretionary funds are to be used for “activities leading to improved student performance” which includes funds for school libraries, music, visual and performing arts and parent outreach programs. This year BHS was allotted \$809,644, which included an unusual extra allotment from the year

before. The amount varies every year; in fiscal year 2007-08 BHS had \$644,628.

As a result, 12 significant programs are funded here at Berkeley High for 2008-09. These include: a new academic support service coordinator and after-school tutoring programs; the College and Career advisors; instructional materials for teachers; the ELL (English as a second language) program; the OCI and intervention co-coordinators; the Parent Resource Center; an athletic coordinator and coach; the parent volunteer coordinator; an instructional media technician (video); the Student Court; and the Dance and Drum program. Every year the BSEP committee receives about twice as many requests as there is money. New proposals are due on February 28 and will be reviewed for the final budget, which will be completed by the end of March. Proposal requirements and forms can be obtained from Belinda McDaniel in the administrative office.

The BHS BSEP site committee is composed of elected teachers, students and parents. The committee reviews how programs are functioning and decides which will be funded for the following year. BSEP committee meetings are open to the public. They are usually scheduled for the third Tuesday of the month at 4:30 and are announced in the BHS general e-tree.

*Allen King, BSEP Chair*

# Evolving BHS Redesign Proposal – *cont. from page 1*

**Public Information Process:** Through two public information evenings, there was a fair amount of support for various components of the plan – specifically for the concept of advisories (twice a week for 30 minutes each), more professional development for teachers in how to more successfully deal with students who are at risk, and an overall change to a more personalized experience for all students at Berkeley High. There was also a fair amount of concern expressed – specifically with regard to the 25% reduction in subject class time, the difficulty of supervising 800 students each period in their community access periods, the need for more detail for many portions of the proposal, and the feasibility of the proposed timeline. For more information on the proposal, please visit the PTSA Website at <http://bhs.berkeleypta.org/index.htm> for both the Design Committee’s original proposal and for the PTSA Position Paper’s breakdown and analysis of the plan.

**Revised Proposal:** The revised proposal was discussed at the January 13, 2009 SGC meeting and the official document was presented at the January 21<sup>st</sup> SGC meeting. There are a number of significant changes:

- The advisory periods and the community access periods have been combined into a single period within the eight period block schedule. Two of the combined periods per week will begin with a 30 minute advisory with the rest of the time being available for the community access part. The result is that the community access period will now be supervised by the advisor, providing greater control over the process. The advisories will now be by grade-level and advisors will be with each group of students for only one year.
- Professional Development will happen on Monday mornings (instead of on Wednesday’s). The Tuesday through Friday schedule will be the same each week, with late-start Mondays alternating between periods 1 through 4 one week and 5 through 8 the next.
- All 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders will take eight classes (this includes the combined Advisory/Community Access Period). This will give students an extra elective. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders will have the option to do so. Students can also combine their community access time with another period to possibly take a community college class or to pursue something else – the details are still being worked out.
- Science classes will be treated like any other class – meaning the elimination of science lab periods. Science classes that have traditionally had a zero or seventh period lab will now have to work lab into the regular class period. For AP classes, this constitutes a 33% reduction in instructional time. Teachers can submit proposals for double periods to address this. According to the District, this may be necessary for some of the IB classes and some AP classes may need to do the same. Principal Slemp stated that this still needs to be figured out, but that they will make sure we have a fully accredited IB program.
- No additional courses will be created at BHS. The course offerings that exist now will be the ones available for the foreseeable future.

**Superintendent’s Letter:** On January 12<sup>th</sup>, Superintendent Bill Huyett wrote a letter to the public, giving his thoughts on the Redesign effort. He was enthusiastic about the fact that BHS was making such a strong move to address the achievement gap, but warned that even if all or part of the proposal is seen as beneficial by the School Board, the state’s current financial crisis may make many aspects of the proposal (and possibly all of the proposal) unaffordable at this time. The District is anticipating an 8% reduction in its budget, which would have catastrophic impacts for the school district, way beyond affecting the proposed changes.

**School Board Schedule:** The Superintendent also stated that the proposal will go before the School Board at their January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting and that they probably wouldn’t vote on the plan before the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

There’s a lot for all parents and teachers at BHS to consider. Please take the time to read all the materials the BHS administration and the PTSA make available, and please come to the February 3<sup>rd</sup> public information forum to get even more insight. Berkeley High’s achievement gap is very real and absolutely must be addressed in a meaningful way. The better informed everyone is, the more informed decisions we can make as a community. We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Mark van Krieken  
BHS PTSA President

# Buen Dia – *cont. from page 1*

pendientes del anuncio de las fechas de los talleres. Les recomendamos a las familias que llenen la solicitud FAFSA en Internet. Para mayor información, favor de visitar [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

**14 de Enero:** Si su estudiante ha aplicado para universidades privadas que requieren las calificaciones del primer semestre del grado 12, el 14 de Enero es la fecha límite para llenar la solicitud de *Mid-Year Report*, junto con una solicitud para un *transcript*. Favor de entregar las solicitudes a Ms. Mellion (en D173), junto con un sobre con las estampillas necesarias y la dirección de la universidad a donde se enviarán los documentos.

**3 de Febrero, Noches para Padres de Estudiantes del Grado 11:** 6:30pm en la biblioteca de la escuela. Esta sesión proveerá información acerca del proceso de admisión a las universidades y las consejeras contestarán cualquier pregunta que tengan al respecto.

## **Fechas de Importancia para Familias de Estudiantes del Grado 8**

**Noche Informativa, Martes 13 de Enero, 2009, 7:00-9:00pm, Teatro Comunitario de BHS**

Reunión para todas las familias interesadas. Cada uno de las escuelas de BHS realizara una presentación de su programa académico. Adicionalmente, las familias podrán obtener información acerca de los departamentos de la escuela, como matemáticas, ciencias, etc., al igual que de los diferentes programas deportivos disponibles para nuestros estudiantes.

## **Para los estudiantes que vengan a BHS de escuelas medias del distrito escolar de Berkeley**

Representantes de BHS visitaran las tres escuelas medias de BUSD para llevar a cabo el proceso de selección de clases. Esto incluye una asamblea informativa para los estudiantes durante el horario escolar y una presentación en Inglés (7 a 7:45pm) y Español (6 a 6:45pm) para los padres la noche del mismo día. Y esa misma semana, las consejeras y consejeros de BHS visitaran las escuelas para guiar a los estudiantes en el proceso de selección de clases para el próximo año escolar.

**Willard Middle School: martes, 27 de Enero**

**King Middle School: martes, 3 de Febrero**

**Longfellow Middle School: lunes, 9 de Febrero**

## **Para los estudiantes que venga a BHS de una escuela media que no sea parte de BUSD**

Estos estudiantes deben inscribirse primero en la Oficina de Admisiones. La dirección es 1835 Allston Way, y la oficina estará abierta para las inscripciones después del 13 de Enero. Luego de haber inscrito al estudiante, las familias podrán asistir a una de las tres reuniones planificadas para ayudarles con el proceso de selección de clases. Las reuniones serán en la biblioteca de BHS a las 6:30pm los días martes 17 de Febrero, jueves 19 de Febrero y miércoles 25 de Febrero.

Una de los aspectos de importancia en la educación de su hijo/a, es su participación como padre/madre en la misma. Hay muchas maneras en las que usted puede participar y queremos animarles a que lo hagan. Usted puede participar directamente asegurándose que su estudiante venga a la escuela a tiempo todos los días y que estén al día con sus tareas y estudios. También pueden participar trabajando como voluntarios en la escuela (si están interesados, favor de contactar a Janet Huseby, *BHS Volunteer Coordinator*, [jhuseby@pacbell.net](mailto:jhuseby@pacbell.net), 510 527-1130) ó participando en las reuniones ó comités para padres de familia de la escuela. Muchos de los padres de la comunidad Latina se siente algo frustrados porque solo un pequeño número de padres Latinos asisten a las reuniones y así se hace muy difícil que se escuchen las necesidades de nuestros estudiantes. Un buen ejemplo ha sido el proceso de recomendación para la reforma escolar de BHS. La escuela necesita su opinión, sus ideas, sus dudas, para que de esta manera la reforma escolar pueda reflejar las necesidades de nuestra comunidad, pero solo un pequeño grupo de familias Latinas asistió a las reuniones comunitarias. Sin embargo, existen otros comités donde usted puede participar; ELAC (Comité Consejero de los Padres de Estudiantes Aprendiendo Inglés), PTSA (Asociación de Padres, Maestros y Estudiantes), BHSDGS (Grupo de Desarrollo de Berkeley High School) o los comités de padres de cada una de las pequeñas escuelas necesitan su participación. Una fuerte participación de las familias Latinas en la escuela no solo nos ayudara a que se escuche la voz de la comunidad, pero también beneficiara a sus estudiantes porque ustedes como padres conocerán mucho más del sistema escolar, conocerán al personal administrativo y docente de la escuela, y sabrán como acceder a los recursos que BHS y la comunidad de Berkeley les ofrecen a ustedes y a sus hijos/as. Así que por favor, no se olviden de participar en la educación de sus hijos.

*Simon Tiles*

## **OVERDUE BOOKS REMINDER**

On December 12<sup>th</sup> 2008, overdue notification letters were mailed out to parents to encourage them to have their student return any overdue library materials and/or textbooks that were not returned from the prior school year. Students with three or more outstanding book debts will not have their semester grades sent out until their debt is clear. Textbook records may be cleared with Tiffany Williams in the textbook room during lunch from 11:32 AM until 12:12 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Overdue library books may be cleared in the library from Monday through Friday between 7:30 AM and 4:00 PM. Students should see the school accountant, Ms. Reed, before 8:30 AM or at lunch to pay for lost books.

*Tiffany Williams*

# FREE DROP-IN TUTORIALS

Contact Christina Mitchell ([cmitchell@berkeley.k12.ca.us](mailto:cmitchell@berkeley.k12.ca.us))  
Student Academic Support Coordinator

## Sponsored by the BHS Development Group

Thanks to the generous funding of the Berkeley High School Development Group and the parents that donate to the BHSDG we are pleased to announce the addition of 5 more teacher tutorials. **Student Learning Center Room D 221** --Oscar Rojas-Soto ([oscarrs@berkeley.k12.ca.us](mailto:oscarrs@berkeley.k12.ca.us)). **Tutoring in all subjects**, Monday- Friday, 3:15-6:00.

NAME	DAY	SUBJECT	TIME	ROOM
<b>MATH</b>				
Warren Hahn	M	Geometry and Calculus	3:15-4:30	H114
Jessica Quindel	Tu	IMP Math Level 2-4	3:15-4:15	H206
John Villavicencio	Tu	Alg 1 and 2	3:15-4:30	H112
Amy Burke	Tu	Alg 1 and Calculus	3:15-4:15	H303
Emily Schneider	Th	Algebra 1 and 2, Geometry	3:30-4:30	G210B
Nakia Baird	Th	Geometry	3:30-4:30	H304
Gideon Goldman	Th	Statistics, Alg 1	3:15-4:45	H115
Angela Dean	Th	Math Analysis	3:15-4:15	H308
<b>HISTORY</b>				
Matt Meyer	M	Economics and Government	3:15-4:30	C232
Heather Sadlon	Tu	World History, SEI World History	3:30-4:30	H102A
Rebecca Issacson	Tu	Global History, and English	3:15-4:30	C216
Peter Rodrigues	Th	Economics	3:30-4:30	C232
Shannon Erby	Th	Freshman Seminar, U.S. History	3:30-4:30	A105
Joanna Vilensky	Tu	World History, Comparative Religion	3:15-4:30	C315
Ross Parker	Tu	IB US and World History	3:15-4:30	G204
<b>ENGLISH</b>				
Susan Jones	M	IB English	3:15-4:30	C231
Kerry Erspamer	M	Global Literature	3:15-4:30	C217
Jordana Anderson	Tu	Freshman Lit. and Composition	3:30-4:30	C220
Kate Walsh-Cunnane	Tu	English	3:30-4:30	A5
Jeff Liu	Th	English, Comparative Values/Beliefs	3:30-4:30	C128
Emily Shirk	Th	Writing *Bilingual in Spanish	3:30-4:30	C204
<b>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</b>				
Marcela Taylor	M	Spanish	3:15-4:30	C112
Samantha Borg	Tu	Spanish	3:15-4:30	C135
Benette Williams	Th	French & Spanish	3:30-4:30	C106
Janelle Bugarini	Tu	Spanish	3:30-4:30	H201
<b>SCIENCE</b>				
Nick Pleskac	M	Biology 1 and 2, IB/AP Biology	3:15-4:30	G211
Jean Whittlesey	Tu	Adv. Biology and Biology	Lunch	G201
Kate Trimlett	W	Adv. Biology, AP Environ. Science	3:30-4:30	G207
Laura Jewett	Th	Chemistry	4:30-5:30	G206A
Matt McHugh	Th	Physics	4:00-5:00	G213
Shannon Strong	Th	Adv. Biology, Environmental Science	3:30-4:30	G207
<b>MULTIPLE SUBJECTS</b>				
Lauren Lovett	Tu	Essay Writing, English, Literacy	3:30-4:30	H305
Ben Neumann	Th	Algebra 1, Geometry, World History	3:15-4:30	D218

# BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GROUP (BHSDG)

In light of the worrisome situation with the California State budget, please consider making a donation to the BHSDG. Your gift is fully tax-deductible and will go far to help fund programs and projects at Berkeley High where local and state funding fall short. This year in particular, during these unprecedented and uncertain economic times, BHS needs your donation now, *more than ever*. As you know, this is a very difficult time for fundraisers all over, but even a small gift will go a long way in helping the Development Group continue its important work throughout the remainder of this academic year.

Thank you in advance and we wish you all the best in 2009.

**Donations can be sent to:** BHSDG, P.O. Box 519, Berkeley, CA 94701-0519

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## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

**Edline:** Berkeley High's presence at Edline.net provides student families with the opportunity to view attendance and grade information, as well as school information online.

Parent/guardian activation codes were mailed home in the summer with registration packets. If you need a replacement code for whatever reason, please visit our Records Office to verify your information and receive your code. Student codes will be made available through their classes by the end of next week.

Drop in trainings for parents are provided every last Thursday of the month in the Library computer lab (D-Admin building) from 3:30-5:30. You can also find self-guided tutorials under News on our Edline Homepage

[https://www.edline.net/pages/Berkeley\\_HS](https://www.edline.net/pages/Berkeley_HS)

### **Technology Acceptable Use Policies**

AUPs were sent home through your student's English class the week of 9/12. They were due to be returned by 9/12 Friday. We begin to disable the accounts of any students without an AUP on file with the Tech Dept. on Monday (9/29).

If students wish to have their accounts reactivated, they should return the signed Acceptable Use Policy with the name of their English teacher written at the top of the form, to the office. Their account will be reactivated within 3-4 working days.

**Technology Volunteers Needed** for copying, posting information to Edline for teachers, and keeping our

bhs.berkeley.k12.ca.us website up to date. Please contact Crystal Jensen [cjensen@berkeley.k12.ca.us](mailto:cjensen@berkeley.k12.ca.us) for more information.

### **BHS Technology Goals and Implementation Update**

The Technology Department and volunteers are striving to provide our community with the best access to equipment and programs as possible. Please find below some of our main past, present, and future goals and accomplishments:

#### **2007-2008 Technology Goals were:**

Electronic grade reporting, Access to grades online, Wireless Internet access in the D building, and Updating old hardware.

#### **2007-2008 Tech Implementations:**

1. Introduction and foundational implementation of Edline and a gradebook that sync
2. Continuation of online attendance/grades
3. Developed systems - new user accounts, helpdesk, purchase tracking
4. Grant writing/purchasing support for teachers
5. Hands-on training and workshops during small school/program, parent (ELL/CPA), and admin meetings
6. Communication structure between all community members via newsletters, meetings, online

technology survey, Edline Tech Department resource page, and email.

7. Support group creation and coordination (webmasters, staff tech reps, other parent volunteers)
8. Installed 200 new teacher desktops, replaced 2/3 of our checkout computer lab

#### **2008-2009 Technology Plans:**

1. Team approach of entire Learning Community (SGC, Admin, Teachers, Students, Parents, Tech Reps) to update BHS Technology Plan and WASC Technology Goals.
2. Ongoing Edline support/training for parents/ teachers include syncing teachers gradebooks with Edline for parent access (teacher use of Edline is voluntary)
3. Technology training for admin/teachers with tutorials for a variety of programs.
4. Individual classroom integration of technology
5. Sharing web resources efficiently
6. Equipment/resource upgrades and additions – streaming video, LCD projectors. Student Tech Rep program (MOUSE Squad) for students to help with school tech support.

*Crystal Jensen  
BHS Technology Coordinator*