

DIGITAL DIGEST

BVS WINS FRANCHISE OF THE YEAR!

On behalf of the Broward Virtual School team, I would like to welcome back everyone to the 2008-09 school-year. I trust that our students and their families had a restful and relaxing summer. The beginning of the school year has not exactly been so restful and relaxing with all the storm activity in the tropics. As a result of Tropical Storm Fay, our Superintendent of Schools, Mr. James Notter, was forced to close schools for the first two days of the new school year. Closing the district for the first two days of school was unprecedented in Broward County until this year. One positive note is that despite the school district being closed during the weather emergency, Broward Virtual School students continued to have access to their courses. Just one of the many benefits of learning online!

I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect upon just a few of the many accomplishments that BVS students and staff achieved last year. First, our teachers achieved a



Mr. Christopher McGuire
Principal, BVS

monumental milestone with a whopping 94% successful completion rate—the highest completion rate of any Florida Virtual School franchise. This means that our students finished their courses with a passing grade 94% of the time.

This is a remarkable reflection of the quality teaching and guidance that takes place at BVS. Secondly, BVS held its

second annual graduation ceremony with the largest graduating class in history. In the 2007-08 school-year, BVS awarded high school diplomas to 63 seniors. This was the first graduating class that had students who attended BVS for their entire high school career.

Additionally, our bimonthly “School Days” activities were consistently well attended throughout the year. We went on exciting field trips to the Everglades and Islands of Adventure. Our “School Days” activities are the driving force behind our effort to build a school community at BVS. To top it all off, Gustavo Goretkin (BVS Class of 2009), took first place in the Grant Imahara VEXplorer Robot Challenge for CHEMBOT. As a result of taking first place in this highly competitive national competition, Gustavo won a \$5,000 scholarship. Congratulations, Gustavo! You can learn more about CHEMBOT and check out Gustavo’s award on the web at www.botmag.com/articles/vex_winners.shtml.

I am thrilled to write that these accomplishments have resulted in BVS being awarded “Franchise of the Year” by Florida Virtual School on September 4, 2008. BVS competed with franchises in Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Hillsborough, Polk, Okaloosa, Marion, and St. John’s Counties for this honor. This award is the direct result of collaborative team work and maintaining an intense focus on student success. I couldn’t be more proud of my fellow BVS teammates who consistently go above and beyond for our students. Go BVS! Let’s have another fantastic year!

Christopher McGuire

Principal, BVS
christopher.mcguire@browardschools.com
754-321-1005

STARTING THE NEW YEAR IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

As we begin a new year, we all make resolutions to change the things that we don't like or the negatives in our lives. We don't wake-up every morning thinking of all the things we're not going to do, we think of the things we are going to accomplish. It may be as simple as take shower, get to work on time, etc... However trivial these accomplishments may be, they are after all steps in the right direction. Baby steps!

I was thinking that if we stop saying "don't be late," "don't get in over your head," we instead say "I am going to be on time," "I will be organized and focused." This will reinforce

positive thoughts and behaviors, and don't think about all the stuff we don't want to do. Start looking in the direction you want to go and stop looking down dead end streets.

Now we come to the part where we lie to ourselves and make unrealistic resolutions, right? Wrong! Instead we are going to write down reasonable goals and list the things we are going to accomplish. Don't write down things like "I'm not going to..." Instead write "I'm going to..." Remember, baby steps. You're not going to wake-up one day and run a marathon; you need to work your way up to that. For many, it may start with crawling first. At least you will be moving in the right direction.

If you're feeling overwhelmed by a stressful situation and falling into your bad habits; redirect yourself by moving onto something positive. Stopping yourself and taking a break will help you reflect on a positive outcome. I

find exercise clears my mind and focuses me on what needs to be accomplished. The hour I walk away results in many hours of positive results. In contrast to the time I could have wasted "thinking" about what needs to be accomplished and becoming more

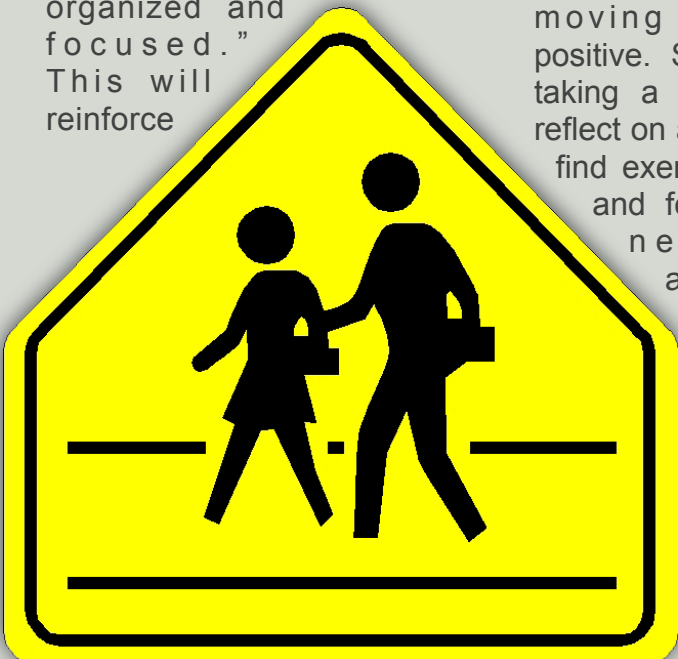
frustrated; thus, resulting in many negative outcomes. You will be amazed at how well this simple process works.

If you are trying for a better and happier you this coming year; then focus on the good. Take time to notice the progress you are making, even if it's small. Stop looking at the fact that you are not where you want to be yet. Start looking at how far you've come. Keep looking at the positives, even if it means baby steps until you're running full speed. If you focus on "I didn't accomplish all the things I wanted to," or "I wasted the whole day sleeping," you'll continue to reinforce the failure you feel day after day. Don't cry over spilt milk! It doesn't change anything.

This reminds me of something tennis player and eight-time Grand Slam Champion Andre Agassi once said. He stated, "Just get a day better. Don't accept not getting a day better. However, don't be stupid enough to try to get two days better in one day."

Focus on the positive and believe. It's good to recognize our weaknesses, but working on our strengths will compensate for them. Keep your eyes on the road ahead or you may drive off into a ditch!

*Submitted by Thomas Desmidt,
BVS Language Arts*



GUIDANCE CORNER

The Guidance Office would like to welcome back returning and new students for the 2008-2009 school year. The counselors, Ruth Eloi, high school and Tanya Mistretta, middle school are here to serve the students with academic, career, and personal issues.

School Days

“School Days” is opened to all Broward Virtual School students and takes place on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 9:00am – Noon.

For more information go to www.bved.net and click on the “BVS CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND DATES.”

Students please join us for our first “School Days” event, Wednesday, September 10 from 9:00am-12:00pm

*Come meet your classmates
And have some fun
There's lots of learning
To be done!*

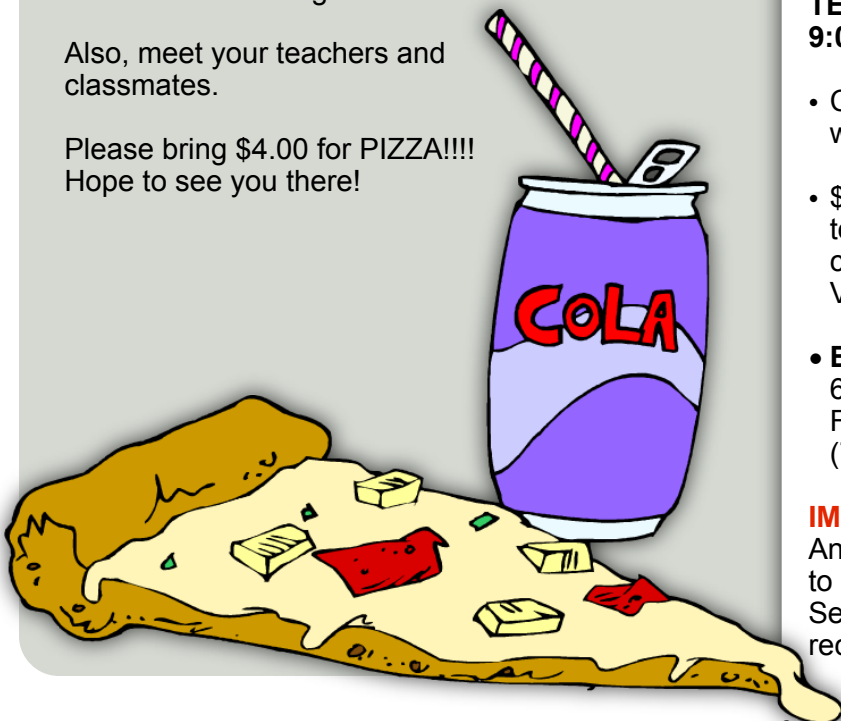
*We'll provide the laptops
You provide your brain
Please join us and help yourself
Avoid the 'online' strain*

We will be covering the basics:

- How to submit a discussion
- How to create and send an attachment
- How to use grammar tools in your word processing program
- How to establish good work habits

Also, meet your teachers and classmates.

Please bring \$4.00 for PIZZA!!!!
Hope to see you there!



PSAT Testing

Attention 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students: Take the 2008 PSAT/NMSQT

The PSAT/NMSQT is the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test. It is optional.

Why Take the PSAT/NMSQT?

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html>

- Assess your critical reading, mathematical reasoning, and writing skills
- Get specific suggestions on how to improve your academic skills
- Prepare for the SAT with a free personalized study plan
- Enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions for recognition and scholarships
- Request free information from colleges and universities
- Use My College QuickStart to access free resources and information about college and career planning

**TEST DATE: Wednesday, October 15, 2008
9:00am - 1:00pm**

- College-bound 9th, 10th, & 11th grade students with picture identification
- \$13.00 for 9th and 11th grade students. Free to all 10th grade students. (mail or deliver a check or money order made out to Broward Virtual School)
- **BVS @ BECON**
6600 SW Nova Drive
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33317
(754) 321-1100

IMPORTANT!

Any interested students must submit their names to Ms. Eloi @ ruth.eloi@browardschools.com by September 17, 2008. Test payment must be received by October 1, 2008

FCAT RETAKE TESTING

11th and 12th grade Broward Virtual School students planning to graduate in 2009 or 2010!

If you have not taken and/or earned passing scores on one or both subject areas (reading and math) of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) necessary to receive a standard high school diploma in the state of Florida and Broward County, please mark your calendars and print this for future reference.

- You must have a minimum of 11 credits to be allowed to take this test.
- Students work at their own pace and are allowed to leave upon completion.
- Testing will begin promptly at 9:00am.
- Students needing to use the entire testing time should bring a bagged lunch.
- Lunch will be from 12pm-1pm. Testing will resume promptly at 1:00pm.

- Bring picture identification and Jacket/sweater
- No one will be admitted without picture identification.
- Those who only need to pass one subject of the test should come on that day only.

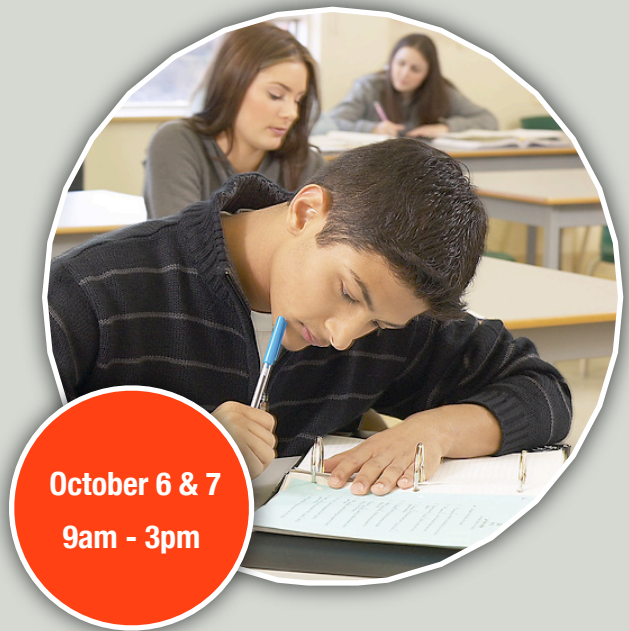
Reading FCAT Test

Monday, October 6, 2008
9:00am - 3:00pm

Mathematics FCAT Test

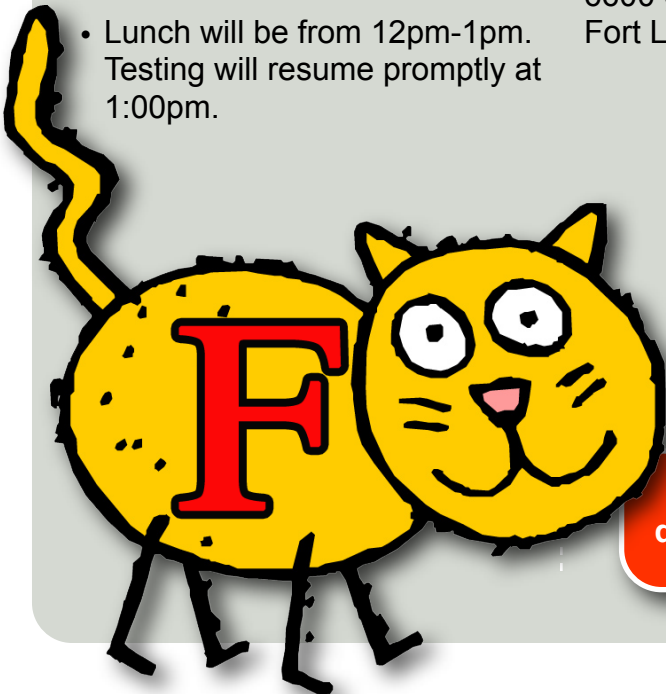
Tuesday, October 7, 2008
9:00am - 3:00pm

Testing will take place at
Broward Virtual School
BECON MGM Room
6600 SW Nova Drive
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33317



October 6 & 7
9am - 3pm

BVS will allow students to place their powered off electronic devices on a desk in the front of the room with the test proctor. Be reminded that lack of attendance during required standardized testing constitutes a violation of BVS policy and can result in the withdrawal of a student from all classes.



BVS Phone Numbers

HS Guidance.....754-321-1105
MS Guidance.....754-214-2888
BVS Information.....754-321-1100

If you are unsure of your required attendance day(s), please email ruth.eloi@browardschools.com