



DIGITAL DIGEST

September/October 2010 Volume VII

We are growing!

Christopher McGuire, Principal BVS



Welcome back, BVS students! The Trailblazers are off to a great start in the new school year.

I'm excited to

announce that we have more students this year than ever before! With the addition of our 70 elementary students, we now have over 400 full-time students attending Broward Virtual School. With our part-time students included, we have a total of 601 students attending BVS. Amazing! Keeping up with the growth has been quite a challenge. Many thanks to our hard-working teachers, guidance counselors, and support staff members for providing excellent customer service to our students and parents as we kicked off the 2010-2011 school year.

I'm very happy to announce that BVS now has a brick and mortar campus! To accommodate the influx of full-time students for testing and other face-to-face activities, we will utilize the new BVS Annex located at 5350 SW 90 Avenue in Cooper City (next to Pioneer Middle School). We are currently using the BVS annex to offer weekly face-to-face instructional activities to our elementary school students. We will also conduct school-wide Benchmark Assessment Testing and FCAT testing at the BVS Annex. We're really excited to be expanding to a larger facility to accommodate our students' needs.

Our administrative office will remain at the BECON building for the time being.

I'd like to welcome three new staff members to the BVS team this year. Dr. Evelyn Weaver is our new elementary school teacher. Dr. Weaver comes to us with extensive experience with distance learning instruction and curriculum expertise. Dr. Weaver is the first-ever elementary school teacher at BVS! Ms. Deborah Wells is also a new addition to our faculty. Ms. Wells is teaching middle school Social Studies courses this year. Ms. Wells comes to us with over twenty years experience teaching at both the middle and high school level here in Broward County. She also has extensive experience as a Curriculum Specialist in career education. Ms. Cynthia Dunlap, Information Management Specialist, is a new addition to the BVS support team. Ms. Dunlap's primary responsibilities are to schedule students in their courses and report grades. She comes to us with extensive experience at the elementary, middle, and high school level. ... **continued on page**



Graduation 2010: A night to remember for students and parents. Photo by Alice Chotovinsky

Growing... continued

We are very fortunate to have Dr. Weaver, Ms. Wells and Ms. Dunlap on our team! I'd also like to welcome Mr. Charles Grimes and Ms. Megan Yanes, two former part-time BVS teachers who have joined our team as full-time faculty members this year. Both Mr. Grimes and Ms. Yanes are phenomenal teachers and are already making a difference for our students.

As always, we have a plan for success for the new school year. I'd like to take this opportunity to share our school improvement goals for the 2010-2011 school year. Our school improvement goals are as follows:

- 82% of students in grades 3-10 will achieve level 3 or higher on the FCAT reading test
- 90% of students in grades 3-10 will achieve level 3 or higher on the FCAT mathematics test
- 90% of 4th, 8th, and 10th grade students will score 4.0 or higher on the FCAT writing test
- 55% of 5th, 8th, and 11th grades will achieve level 3 or higher on the FCAT science test



Tiffany Samuels, Class of 2010
Valedictorian, smiling with happiness.
Photo by Alice Chotovinsky

- BVS teachers will maintain a 95% successful student completion rate

With the efforts of our talented BVS teachers and support staff combined with the support of our parents and hard work put forth by our students, I know we will have no trouble achieving our goals this year. This is the recipe for success. Students, I am very proud to be your Principal. Let's make this year the best yet at BVS.



Superintendent Notter visiting a BVS orientation. Photo by Andrew Feirstein

Character Education: Responsibility

Responsibility means being accountable for your own actions and choices without blaming others.

- **Do what you are supposed to do**
- **Persevere: keep on trying!**
- **Always do your best**
- **Use self-control**
- **Be self-disciplined**
- **Think before you act — consider the consequences**
- **Be accountable for your choices**



Guidance Greeting

Tanya Mistretta and Ruth Eloi
Guidance Counselors

The Guidance Office would like

to welcome back returning and new students for the 2010-2011 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.

"Hands on Help"

Who: Full-time BVS Middle School Students

When: Wednesday, September 29th from 9:00AM-12:00PM

Where: Broward Virtual School/BECON Building, 6600 SW Nova Drive, Fort Lauderdale, 33317

Instructor: Mr. Desmidt

***Please bring \$4.00 for pizza and drinks.**

What:

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 classmates.
Hope to see you there!

School Days

"School Days" is open to all Broward Virtual full-time students and takes place on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 9:00AM – 12:00PM.

Please join us for our first official "School Days" event.

When: Wednesday, October, 13th from 9:00AM-12:00PM

Instructor: Mrs. McCutcheon

Lunch: *Please bring a bag lunch (Please note, there will not be a refrigerator or microwave available)

Where: This school days will take place at our BVS Annex.
BVS Annex
5400 SW 90 Avenue
Cooper City, FL 33328

SW 90 Avenue is located approximately 1/2 mile west of Pine Island Road and 1/2 mile east of Nob Hill Road. SW 90 Avenue is between Stirling and Griffin Roads next to Pioneer Middle School.

When: Wednesday, October, 27th from 9:00AM-12:00PM

Instructor: TBA

Lunch: Please bring \$4.00 for pizza and drinks.

Where: Broward Virtual School/BECON Building, 6600 SW Nova Drive, Fort Lauderdale, 33317

Guidance... continued on page 6



BVS students enjoying a field trip to Islands of Adventure. Photo by Alice Chotovinsky



Online Physical Education?

Tim Maxwell

P.E. and Business Teacher

“What do you do? Finger exercises, ha ha!” “They are all cheating.” “They will tell you anything.” “How can you be a part of that, it is not physical education?” Oh, I have heard it all over the past eight years as a Virtual Physical Education teacher. To tell you the truth, when I first started teaching Physical Education online, I was a big skeptic myself. I still tell all of my students during the “Welcome Call”, “You can’t do P.E. on a computer!” In the online P.E. world, the computer is just another tool. It is a means of getting the information to the student. Broward Virtual School offers physical education from sixth grade through twelfth grade, so the information varies according to the target audience. The information varies, but the concept is basically the same for all of the classes. The students will learn the information from the computer, ie. “What is flexibility.” They will then apply this knowledge by downloading a log from the course, choosing 8 different stretching exercises that they have learned, doing them at least three times during the week, signing the log, having their parent sign the log verifying the activity, then scanning and attaching, faxing, or snail mailing the log to me. These logs along with the monthly phone calls help me to ensure that the students understand the material and that they are applying their knowledge. The curriculum is not all physical. The students also learn about proper nutrition as well as a healthy lifestyle. After all, one of the keys to a happy life it is just that simple, and just that difficult ...“Diet and Exercise!” Still think that Online Physical Education cannot work?

Here is what some of my students are saying: “I am having fun being active in the P.E. course. I feel my energy level has increased, as I am getting in shape. I have a good time going biking and walking with my parents, and my dad and I have started playing basketball again! The benefits from this course are overall wonderful,” Ethan Barnes 7th grade. “I am the number #1 amateur and Junior golfer in the Country. By taking online PE it has helped me to keep in shape and strengthen my core. I already had a regular workout routine but adding online P.E. has only given me more strength and stamina. An athlete needs to do regular exercise to keep in shape so they don’t hurt themselves while competing,” Alexis Thompson 10th grade. “I loved online PE; it let me work on my own pace, and it was fun too. I got to ride my bike to school and work. It was an enjoyable experience. I think this online PE is better than secular school PE,” Micah Mohr 10th grade. “Online P.E. is it is helping me learn much more about P.E. than what I did at my Elementary school with my old Coach right in front of me.” Karianne Dalton 7th grade

I would like to tell you about my experience with on-line Fitness Lifestyle Design Class. My weight has always been a problem for me. I reached a point where I knew I needed to get it under control. In fall 2008, I signed up for Fitness Lifestyle Design. I had already begun a diet program but not a regular exercise program. This class enforced and provided new information and tools on nutrition. In addition, the course requires regular exercise. I am not a team sports kind of person, so it was perfect for me. I was able to build an exercise plan that fit me and my schedule, doing the things I like to do. The course had detailed description on exercises that work each of the major muscle groups in the body. I printed out the descriptions and diagrams on the right way to do the exercise. I used this package as a manual to refer to 4 or 5 times a week until I memorized the exercise plan. Then I just added repetitions as I got better at it. Since exercise was required for the course, it pushed me to work out regularly. Now, I enjoy it and do it on my own. I have lost a total of 108 pounds. I am eating healthier, I still keep a record of my workouts, and I feel great. Thanks for the support and the class. Travis Aldous, BVS Graduate 2010

I think that just about sums it up! I am a TRUE BELIEVER!!!

Coach Maxwell

Class of 2011 Organize

The BVS class of 2011 has come together to create new traditions within our school. A senior Board of Directors has been set, and they are truly Trailblazers at Broward Virtual.



*Rebecca Rechtszaid
Senior Class CEO*

Broward Virtual School's Senior Class of 2011 is working to build a community within our school. Its goal is to give BVS students a chance to experience the fun aspects of a traditional high school while still reaping the benefits of being in virtual school. This movement is starting with the seniors, but the Class of 2011 hopes that this will carry on into underclassmen, making it a real possibility that the question that we are all asked when it is discovered that we are virtual school students- "Do you ever get to see your classmates?" - will finally have a positive, definite answer.

There are 12 students- along with the fabulous, Senior Advisor, Mr. Charles Grimes -leading the way for new BVS traditions, who make up the Board of Directors of the Class of 2011. Yes, Board of Directors. C/0 2011 has a special kind of student government, in a format like that of a corporation. There is the CEO, the COO, and the 10 directors, each with their own distinct activities to focus on. By doing so, the seniors hope to effectively and efficiently have the usual senior events such as Prom, Grad Bash, Senior fun nights, and even a community service project. With such dedicated directors, this is sure to be an eventful year. Mr. Grimes stated, "These students have stepped up to the plate to create a lasting tradition at BVS. We need the rest of our seniors to participate in the events to make their hard work fruitful."

The first of the senior activities this year is a fundraiser at the Glow Wellness Day Spa in Coral Springs, Florida on September 29th and 30th. Guests of Broward Virtual will get 10% off of their treatment of choice, and 10% of the proceeds will go to the Class of 2011. Other fundraisers this year will consist of a Teacher/Student Talent Show, sales of senior tee-shirts, and movie nights. When asked about the Talent Show, Mr. Grimes excitedly replied, "Our first Annual Teacher/Student Talent show will be open to the entire student body of BVS to participate. Watch for up coming details in our next newsletter. I'm already planning a hilarious act that is both amazing and spectacular. All your favorite teachers will be participating including our esteemed principal, Mr. McGuire." Please come and support your BVS seniors!!!

Broward Virtual Class of 2011 Board of Directors; Rebecca Rechtszaid, CEO; Emily Badillo, COO; Arianna Paz and Chelsea Buffolino, Directors of Special Events, Chelsea Friedman and Yessenia Chu, Directors of Fundraising; Ester Gomes, Director of Grad Bash; Tori Bennett, Director of Participation and Enthusiasm; Candace Almy, Director of Public Relations; John Kramer, Director of College Workshops; Sara Grant, Director of Revitalization and Social Stimulation; Brenda McGrane, Director of Humanitarian Outreach

Guidance Reminders



Important Dates:

Monday, September 20, 2010 PSAT Registration Deadline

Monday, October 4, 2010 PSAT Payment Deadline

Wednesday, October 6, 2010 School Advisory Council Meeting

Monday, October 11, 2010 FCAT Reading Retake Testing

Tuesday, October 12, 2010 FCAT Math Retake Testing

Wednesday, October 13, 2010 PSAT Testing

Wednesday, October 13, 2010 Back to School Night Reminder

From Ms. Eloi

Seniors, Five Quick Tips you need to pay attention to NOW!

1. Get Tested: If you plan to go to college, you need to have a college entrance exam score by taking the SAT or the ACT as soon as possible. You need to take it more than once.

Who: Students graduating in 2011

Where: SAT- www.collegeboard.com, ACT- www.actstudent.org

BVS School Code: 100603

Waivers: If you qualify let me know and I'll give you a test waiver for the ACT or SAT and college application waivers

*Family receives public assistance

*Student is ward of the state

*Student is in Foster home

*Student is homeless

*Student participates in free or reduced lunch

*Family income is below Bureau of Labor Statistics low standard budget

*Family lives in subsidized housing

2. Apply Early For College: College Applications are due for most colleges by November 1st of your senior year if you want a reply by February. Please check the college's website. Remember, colleges have limited space. Go to www.facts.org for college information.

3. Search For Scholarships: You do qualify for something. Just apply! Go to www.fastweb.com, www.facts.org, www.browardschools.com search the BRACE department.

4. Send Your Transcript: Colleges & scholarships will ask for your transcript to be sent by your school. Get a transcript request form from www.bved.net. Click on links and look for the form.

5. Plans after graduation: Make a decision!

***Military:** Be informed that Virtual school is classified as a tier 2 school. We are working on getting them to understand and change this. But meanwhile, this means if enrolled as tier 2 you will be treated differently than someone who sat in a classroom full time in terms of benefits. Contact your recruiter for details.

***Community College:** Apply Early. Scholarships are given based on first come first served. Consider dual enrollment classes.

***University:** Consider dual enrollment and AP classes. Submit all the necessary information to complete your application right away so you won't be stuck having to pick a school you really don't want.

***Work:** Find out what you're good in and what employers are requiring to hire you.

Technical School: Consider taking free shared time courses while in high school. Find out where your program is offered:

Atlantic Tech., McFatter Tech., and Sheridan Tech.