

Trailblazer Times



End of the Year Edition

A Year of Firsts

Christopher McGuire, Principal

Our best year yet!

It's hard to believe the school year has ended. I'm thrilled to report that BVS had another successful school year filled with lots of "firsts." We learned back in December that we were the first district virtual school to receive an "A" rating from the Florida Department of Education. Our elementary program was the first in the state to partner with K12 Florida and use our very own teacher, Dr. Evelyn Weaver. We formed our first Senior Board of Directors under the supervision of Mr. Charles Grimes, BVS English teacher. The Board of Directors, comprised of seven BVS seniors, came together with the vision of creating a new high school experience for BVS students. As a result of their efforts, BVS held its first student and teacher talent show. The Board also launched a successful fundraising campaign to cover costs for our first junior and senior prom. Our first prom was held April 21 on the Sun Dream Yacht. What an incredible evening it was! Many thanks to seniors Rebecca Rechtszaid, Emily Badillo, Candace Almy, Chelsea Friedman, Chelsea Buffalino, Brenda McGrane and Jonathan Kramer for volunteering their time to

serve their school. They have left quite a legacy!

Congratulations to the BVS Class of 2011! On June 8, BVS held its 5th annual commencement ceremony at the Nova High School Auditorium to honor our seniors. I am particularly proud of our Valedictorian, Keely Lubin and our Salutatorian, Rebecca Rechtszaid. These young ladies are quite impressive indeed. Keely finished her high school career with a 5.0 GPA and 36 college credits that she earned through dual enrollment at Broward College. Awesome! Keely will be attending The Florida State University (Honors Program) in August. Rebecca earned a 4.9 GPA and took 10 Advanced Placement courses and earned 15 college credits through dual enrollment at Broward College. Incredible! Rebecca will be attending The University of Florida in August. I will miss all of our seniors and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Many thanks to Mrs. McCutcheon, Mr. Robles, Dr. Wells and Dr. Weaver for chaperoning our annual field trip to Islands of Adventure. On May 25, 45 BVS students loaded a chartered bus at 6 AM bound for Orlando where we had an amazing time riding roller coasters and visiting the *Wizarding World of Harry Potter*. What a blast! The bus arrived back at 10:30 PM. It was a long day, but well

worth it for the fun time had by all. Special thanks to Ms. Mistretta and Ms. Niskar for coordinating the trip.

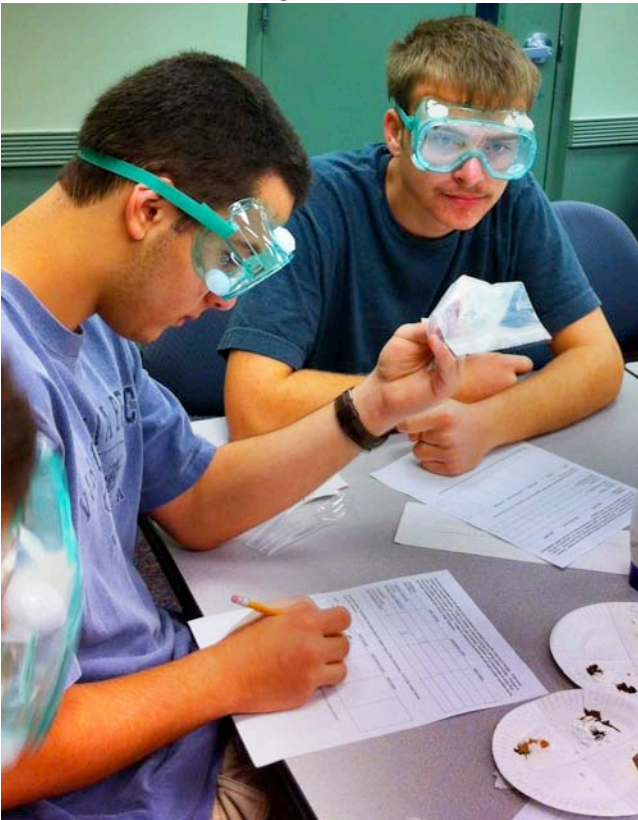
Overall, the 2010-2011 school year was a huge success. I'm happy to report that our FCAT results came back higher than state and district averages yet again. Our teachers demonstrated a 95 percent successful student completion rate for the third consecutive year. Unbelievable! Many thanks to our teachers, guidance counselors, support staff, students and parents for working so well as a team to make Broward Virtual School the best in the business. I could not be a prouder Principal!

On behalf of the entire staff, I wish our students and parents a safe and relaxing summer. Thank you for being part of Broward Virtual School.



BVS end of the year field-trip. Students had a great time at Island of Adventure.

School Days 2010/2011



Students working on a chemistry activity during a science school day.

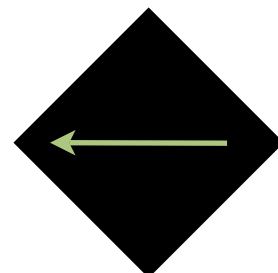
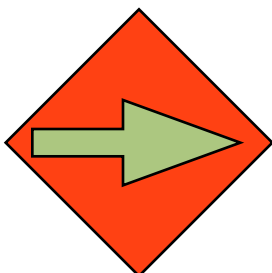


Students writing poetry about the end of fall and the beginning of winter, during their creative writing school day.

Broward Virtual has started collecting Box Tops!!!

You can make a difference for Broward Virtual school every time you shop for groceries! Just clip the Box Tops coupons from hundreds of your favorite products and send bring them to Broward Virtual School.

Visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com> for more information!

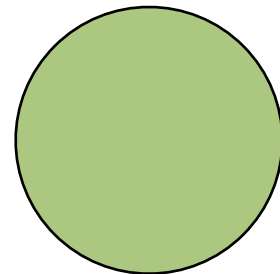




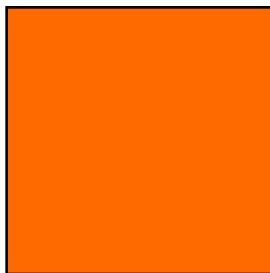
Middle school students versus the high school students on a Science school day with Mrs. Salette. Students were asked questions about Science and competed for points.



School Day activities are social as well as educational. Students painted pumpkins for a Halloween celebration.



In addition to a creative pumpkin contest, students dressed up in costumes. The morning was filled with fun competitions and social opportunities for BVS students.



Student Buzz

My B.V.S. Experience...Reflections of an 8th grader... By Josue Gonzales

I have had the amazing privilege of being in BVS, for 3 years now. My whole Middle School experience has been with the wonderful teachers and staff of Broward Virtual School. Many people have asked me if I have regretted attending BVS, since I had to leave friends behind, and enter an online environment that was something completely new to me. Looking back at what I have gained and all the things I have done, I tell you the truth; I have NO regrets. I would like to invite you to look back at "All my gains" since 6th grade till 8th grade, and now the future that lays ahead of me "High School".

"Fear" an unpleasant feeling of anxiety or apprehension caused by the presence or anticipation of danger. That is the way many of us felt when we entered Middle School on the first day. At least that was the way I felt. It was the feeling of a new guppy in a fish bowl. Imagine, new school, new system of learning, new people, I was completely alone. But thanks to many of the teachers such as Mrs. Cardenas, Mrs. Yanes, and unmatched Ms Sallette were always there those first years. I was able to proceed unharmed those first few months. Since it was my first year at BVS, I had to get used to everything. I did certain things wrong but I always knew when to get up, what I should do, thanks to those teachers and friends like Jonathan Pelaez, helped me every single step of the way. When the end of 6th grade came, I had the courage to stay one more year, instead of giving up and going back to regular school. That was a wise decision.

Classes were getting harder, new courses, and many of the teachers I had in 6th grade weren't the same in 7th. My little sister was starting Broward Virtual, and it was my responsibility to help go through her first year. It wasn't easy; many times I had to finish my work and then start helping her. I had to cheer her up and keep telling her not to give up, when many times I was the one that wanted to give up. I always thought that the fact that I was in BVS was actually a privilege. There are many people who don't even know the basics of reading and writing. That makes you appreciate what you have. And like I mentioned in the beginning, my gains were the focus not what I had lost. BVS was a challenge but I don't think it was ever a bad decision. I remember how useful school days were. It was a time where you could disconnect from your work and just have fun together as a group. I was able to make good friends meet new people. Thanks to them and the time teachers spent during school days I received FCAT with scores that I was surprisingly shocked with, especially in math.

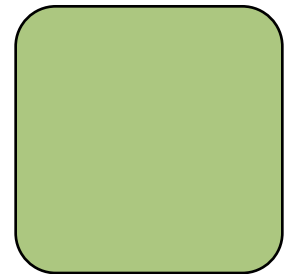
A Time of Change

Mates, trust me when I tell you that 8th grade was a revolutionary year for me. Many things changed. First, I had new teachers and new classes. Out of every single middle school grade, 8th grade was my favorite. I was already used to learning online. I remember that I would wake up and start school at 9:00 am or 9:30 am till 4:00pm, and I would do school Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. I was able to get my 6 classes down in 3 days, leaving me with enough time to do other very important things, which thinking about it, that was the whole point of coming to Broward Virtual. I would enjoy of more time and flexibility to pursue other interests. I had challenges with my classes, like the fact they weren't as easy as before. I was familiar with the work given so I knew what I had to do, and I did it. I was able to make more friends in 8th grade than in 6th and 7th together. I remember FCAT was amazing when I think back. I don't remember the hard questions from math, reading, and science portions, but rather about the good times that I enjoyed with my classmates. I would like to name a few: "Noah the class clown," "Sage the mighty guy." Kourtney and Emily were like salt and pepper. Ana Betsie, Jonathan Deutriell, Jared Everly, Mrs. Yanes, and Mrs. McCutcheon all really put the cherry on top of the milk shake. We had so much fun. It was a really, really nice school year. But wait I am missing one little detail... I have to thank Mr. Grimes for giving me this wonderful opportunity to share my story. He really helped me with my L.A. 3 class. I had a great experience this year with Language Arts. I found it easy, I found it fun, I found it really educational, and I thank him for helping me, for letting me express myself. I was always looking towards orals with him because we would talk for over 45 minutes, and those calls were always educational and interactive. So now Middle School is over. I finished it May 10, and a new door opens before me. But when I look back at the one I am leaving behind, Middle School, I had bad times and good times. If someone asked me "Do u have any regrets going to BVS?" I would reply with certainty, "Regrets? No, I have no regrets, because I look at all the knowledge that I have gained at BVS. I can't imagine comparing it with anything else."

Another First at BVS...Class of 2011 Board of Directors

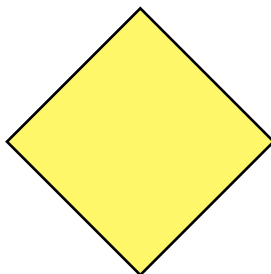


Mr. McGuire's dream of having a senior class Board of Directors came true this year. The students worked hard this year to have a Senior Junior Prom.



Ms. Eloi and, COPR, Candace Almy giving information to seniors about their scholarship opportunities and senior class activities.

Seniors attending a class meeting, getting information about the senior class project and prom.



Gleeful Student Teacher Talent Show



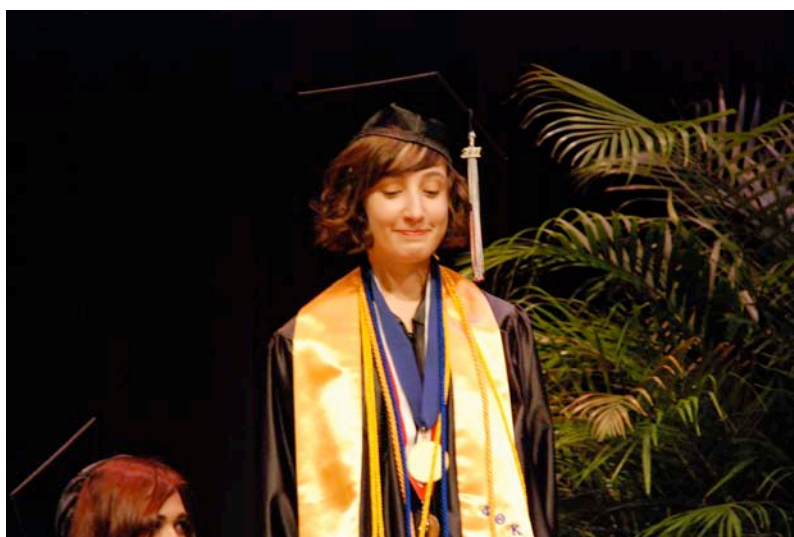
Our First Junior Senior Prom





Graduates of 2011 celebrate before the ceremony.

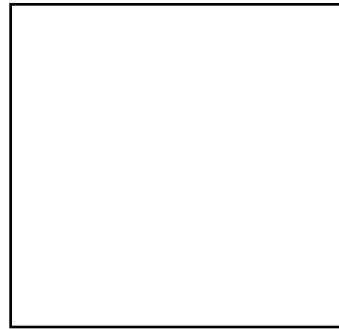
Valedictorian Keely Lubin smiles with great pride.



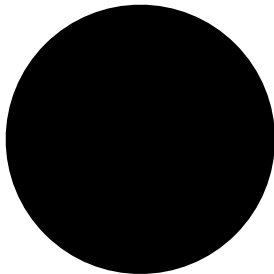
Senior Class Officers of 2011 accept awards for their tremendous work this year.



Salutatorian Rebecca Rechtszaid gives a heart-felt speech that included her little sister.



Jonathan Kramer presents Mr. McGuire an award from the Senior Board of Directors.



This year BVS experienced a packed house for its graduation ceremony. The class of 2011 gave BVS another first to celebrate.

