

# **2010 – 2011 Central Connections**

## **Your Lancer Lifeline....the Book of Basics**

### **REALLY BASIC STUFF**

- At Brookfield Central (BCHS) we are the LANCERS.
- Our mascot is the KNIGHT.
- Our school colors are ROYAL BLUE and WHITE.
- Our cross-town rival is Brookfield East (BEHS). They are the Spartans and their colors are red and white.
- Both BCHS and BEHS are part of the Elmbrook School District. BCHS serves the general west side of Brookfield and a tiny corner of New Berlin. BEHS serves the east side of town and Elm Grove.
- BCHS students come from Wisconsin Hills Middle School (WHMS or The Hills). They attended Brookfield Elementary, Hillside or Swanson elementary schools.
- BEHS students come from Pilgrim Park Middle School. They attended Dixon, Tonawanda (in Elm Grove) or Burleigh elementary schools.
- All schools in the Elmbrook district have some students from other parts of the metro area.
- At BCHS we have about 1,330 students who are fairly evenly divided between the four grades.

### **FOR STUDENTS**

- 1) Social life at BCHS – how it really works and how to fit in
  - Finding your place – how to meet people and choose activities

There is truly something for everyone at BCHS, but you are going to have to do some work on your own to find the best fit for you. If you are not already on an athletic track, choose a non-cut sport that will introduce you to new people and a new activity (non-cut means that no one is turned away, and you will not be the only beginner). The cross-country teams run in the fall (actually they start in August) and are well known for their camaraderie and welcoming of new members. The swim teams are another place to meet people (girls – August start, boys – November start). Girls' tennis is in the fall; boys' tennis is in the spring. Track teams run in the spring. Freshman football is another non-cut sport. Not athletic? Check out the extensive list of clubs and activities by 1) going to the BCHS website ([elmbrookschoools.org](http://elmbrookschoools.org), click on Schools, choose BCHS) and clicking on the Co-Curricular tab and then the Clubs and Organizations option, or 2) look for signs on the walls at school, or 3) listen to the announcements and attend meetings. Don't be afraid to tell people you are new and ask them about a club you might be interested in. Get started right away!

- Cliques – are people friendly at BCHS? What’s the best approach?  
Most of us at BCHS have been going to school together since kindergarten, so we know each other really well. If we don’t seem to pay attention to new people, it is not because we are ignoring you; we are just talking to our friends. Get our attention by being outgoing. Smile at everyone and say “hi”. Introduce yourself. Ask a couple of questions. Answer questions in class so people know who you are. Be bold at lunch – look for people you recognize and ask if you can sit at their table (this is hard, but just do it). It will take some time to find the group that feels right, but don’t give up. Keep going. Remember – people will treat you the way you treat them, so be friendly and personable.
- What to wear  
Wear what makes you feel comfortable and confident. Think fashion, not overnight fad. Pay attention to what other students are wearing and choose things you like. Don’t draw attention to yourself in negative ways and don’t wear things you have to worry about, such as pants that are too loose or skirts that are so short you can’t sit down properly. People will not admire these fashion errors and they will not admire YOU for wearing them.
- What’s cool  
It’s cool to be active, involved and connected at school. It’s cool to be nice to other people. It’s also very cool to get good grades. All of these are within your control.
- Important things to go to  
Go to the different athletic games (football, basketball, boys soccer, girls soccer). Attend Homecoming, school dances in general, Prom and Post Prom, Senior Ball, Project Graduation, and band/chorus/orchestra concerts. Do not miss the school plays; most people arrange to go to these with a group of friends (not your parents!).
- What to do if people pick on you  
Sometimes this is really subtle and it can be VERY hard to know what to do about it. Be aware that bullying is not allowed at our school. Stand up for yourself, but if the immaturity continues, don’t hesitate to confide in a teacher, coach, guidance counselor, or someone in the front office. They will not think less of you if you ask for help. Work out a plan with them to get it stopped right away, because you should not have to look over your shoulder and be stressed all the time.
- DON’T make these mistakes (what NOT to do)  
Don’t change yourself just to try to fit in. Don’t pretend to be something you’re not. Don’t limit yourself to what you think others would want you to do. These things will backfire on you sooner rather than later and you will really feel miserable.

## 2) Academics

- Grading scale  
A = 93 -100  
B = 85 - 92  
C = 77 - 84  
D = 70 - 76  
F < 70

- GPA

Grade Point Average is calculated from your semester grades, not your quarter grades, and is shown on your semester report cards. For regular classes and Honors classes you earn:

- A = 4.0 points
- B = 3.0 points
- C = 2.0 points
- D = 1.0 points (you need to get busy)
- F = you don't even want to go there

Let's say you have seven classes and you earned four B's and three A's. Your GPA is 3.43: [(4 classes x 3 points) + (3 classes x 4 points)] divided by 7 classes = 3.43.

AP (Advanced Placement) classes and level 5 language classes have weighted grades. At the end of each semester you can add .025 to each AP or language grade, so you get an additional .05 for the entire year. Let's say two of the above B's you earned were for first semester AP classes. Your new GPA is 3.48 (adding two bonuses of .025 each). If you earned exactly the same grades second semester, your GPA would be 3.53 (another two bonuses of .025 each).

- Class rank

Yes, we still have it. It is based on your GPA. Class rank and GPA are posted on your semester report cards but not your quarter report cards. A student can request that class rank not be listed on his/her transcript; the request needs to go through Mrs. Rink in the guidance office. **Beginning in the year 2011 – 2012, class rank will no longer be calculated.**

- How to get academic help

- Talk to your teachers. They love to help students and are available at several different times during the day.
- Check Moodle for your class assignments.
- Check your class's SmartBoard link for past lessons (available in many, but not all classes).
- Teachers often know of outside websites that are specific to your subject. Ask, because these can be tremendously useful. Sometimes you just need to see or hear information presented in a different way and it makes sense.
- Join or form a study group. These really help, even though you may think you study better on your own, and they are usually fun.
- Do not wait to ask for help. Do it now. I'm serious.

- Should I take Honors/AP or not?

Honors and AP classes teach you a lot more than regular classes. The trade-off is that they go faster, cover more material, and are generally harder. If you are interested in a subject and think you can do well in an advanced class, take it! If it will only stress you and if you aren't determined to work hard, think again. Do you want to learn in-depth cool

stuff and be challenged to think, or do you only want a good grade? You will have to decide if it is better to maybe get a B in an AP class or get an A in a regular class. Remember that Honors and AP classes will prepare you for college-level work and some universities expect to see these on your transcript. Caution – don't overload yourself with AP classes just to prove something to yourself or to your friends. Do what you can manage.

- Advanced Placement (AP) classes

AP classes are college level courses offered in high school. They are optional and either replace standard coursework or are taken as electives. Most of these classes are taught over two semesters and cover one semester's worth of college information. They follow a national curriculum and have a standardized national exam (all AP exams are given during a two week window in early May). There is no charge to take an AP class, but each exam costs about \$85. Exam registration is in the very early spring; you are not required to take the exam even though you take the class (or you can take the exam but not the class).

BCHS offers a wide variety of AP classes. Typically, the first AP classes taken are European History or Psychology and they are taken by sophomores (these can also be taken by upperclassmen when their schedule allows the time). Depending on the requirements of the university you choose to attend and the score you receive on the national exam (results are sent to you in the summer), you could receive college credit for your classes. You sign up for AP classes the same way you register for any other class – through the online school portal in January and February. Available courses are listed in the course guide that is issued before the registration window. BCHS participation in AP classes is fairly huge (and growing) and you will hear a lot about these in general conversation with your friends. For more information, check the CollegeBoard.com website.

- Exam exemption

Each semester you are allowed to potentially be exempt from taking one semester exam. You will have to fill out a survey via school email link to request the exemption in the class of your choice. Your teacher will review the request and decide if you meet the criteria. You cannot exempt the same subject exam both semesters, and AP exams cannot be exempted. By school district policy, these are the pre-requisites for exam exemption:

- Grade of A+, A, or A- prior to test in the course to be exempted.
- No unexcused absences in *any* period throughout the semester.
- No more than five (5) excused absences from any single class period in the current semester – not just in the one you want to exempt. School related absences such as field trips, athletic competitions, and rehearsals do not count against you.
- No more than one (1) study hall in the current semester.
- No Academic Honesty violations in any course in the current semester.

Associate principal Mr. Darin is the best person to answer any questions you may have about exemptions ([darinj@elmbrookschools.org](mailto:darinj@elmbrookschools.org)).

- Summer gym class  
There are two summer Phy Ed classes. PE 9 is for incoming 9th graders or students who need to retake PE 9 (usually they didn't finish the class for medical reasons or they failed). The other class is for students going into grades 10,11, or 12 and may be taken to make up a credit or to get ahead (this way your schedule during the year has room for a different class). There are a variety of classes that may be taught in the summer; they are offered on a rotating basis from year to year. However, a student may only earn credit once for any given Phy Ed class. In other words, a student cannot take Lifetime Sports more than once and earn credit each time. Registration is in the spring; watch for the announcement.
- Zero hour gym class  
Zero hour Phy Ed is offered REALLY early in the morning before the school day officially begins. The title of the class rotates from year to year. For example, last year Racquet and Team Sports was offered, and this year it will be Lifetime Sports. These are available to non-freshmen. The benefit of a zero hour class is that you can take something else in your regular schedule. The disadvantage is that you can't attend some morning club meetings.
- Registration for next year's classes  
This takes place in January and early February and is done online. If you have any doubts or questions about what you should take, see your guidance counselor early. Do not wait until the last minute because all the other procrastinators will be in line ahead of you.

### 3) Sports

Here are the sports, listed by season. Many of the answers to your sports questions can be found on the school website ([elmbrookschools.org](http://elmbrookschools.org)) and any additional information can be obtained from the activity/athletic office. Contact the Athletic & Activities Director, Mr. Todd Sobrilsky, at [sobrilst@elmbrookschools.org](mailto:sobrilst@elmbrookschools.org) or his Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Joy Taylor, at [taylorj@elmbrookschools.org](mailto:taylorj@elmbrookschools.org). You may phone the athletic office at 262-785-3918.

**Please note:** before beginning practice for any sport, a WIAA physical card must be signed by your doctor and turned in to Mrs. Taylor. Also (very important), you are required to sign a Code of Conduct form before you participate in sports. It covers grades, behavior and substance abuse. Conduct yourself in a mature manner and you won't have any problems.

| FALL SPORTS              | START (2010) | WINTER SPORTS           | START (2010) |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Boys' Cross Country      | Aug. 15      | Boys' Basketball (cut)  | Nov. 14      |
| Girls' Cross Country     | Aug. 15      | Girls' Basketball (cut) | Nov.16       |
| Football                 | Aug. 3       | Girls' Gymnastics*      | Nov. 7       |
| Girls' Golf              | Aug. 8       | Boys' Swim/Dive*        | Nov.14       |
| Boys' Soccer (cut sport) | Aug. 8       | Wrestling               | Nov.14       |

|                               |         |   |        |
|-------------------------------|---------|---|--------|
| Girls' Swim/Dive              | Aug. 9  | Hockey*   | Nov. 7 |
| Girls' Tennis                 | Aug. 9  |   |        |
| Boys' Volleyball (cut sport)  | Aug. 22 | *These teams are combined with Brookfield East. |        |
| Girls' Volleyball (cut sport) | Aug. 15 |   |        |

**SPRING SPORTS START (2011)**

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Boys' Golf (cut sport)      | Mar. 26 |
| Girls' Soccer (cut)         | Mar. 19 |
| Girls' Softball (cut sport) | Mar. 19 |
| Boys' Tennis                | Mar. 26 |
| Boys' Track                 | Mar. 5  |
| Girls' Track                | Mar. 5  |
| Baseball                    | May 15  |

Most of these sports have different levels of play. Some have Freshmen, JV and Varsity levels; others have JV and Varsity levels.

**DANCE AND CHEER**

Poms (JV and Varsity Lancerette Dance Team)  
Cheerleading

Tryouts for Cheerleading and Poms are held sometime between March and May for the next year's squad. If you are selected for the Poms squad, you may choose to do fall, winter or both seasons. If you are selected for the Cheerleading squad, you may choose to cheer in the fall, winter or both. You may not, however, participate on another sport team at the same time.

Here are some commonly asked questions about athletics.

- What are the costs of each sport, including uniforms and spirit wear?  
Each sport has a participation fee of \$60, with \$120 being the maximum charge for each student (you can play as many sports as you want for the \$120 fee). You may pay in full at Registration, or you can pay at the beginning of each sport's season. You must pay in advance; you can't try it out and then decide. Uniforms are sometimes included in the fee, depending on the sport, and the purchase of team spirit wear is optional. You are responsible for providing some things such as shoes, shin guards, racquets, etc.
- Are there off-season maintenance programs, camps, clinics, or club sports to participate in?  
Yes, most sports have some sort of off-season program, although the school may not sponsor it. Coaches can give you additional information, or ask Mrs. Taylor in the athletic office.
- What is the cost for spectators to attend BCHS games?  
In the past, the fees have been \$3 or \$4 for parents and students if buying tickets at the gate/door (this is usually true for away games as well). There is no admission charge if you are a Booster Club member/card holder (you get ten free admissions with your membership; additional games are regular price). Tournament games (regional, sectional and state) are

usually a little more expensive and Booster Club passes are not accepted (everyone is required to pay for these games).

- What communication is provided to parents?

Coaches will have a parents' meeting at the beginning of the season. Schedules, rules, expectations, carbo crams, and everything else will be explained. Usually a parent volunteer will become the team manager and this person is the first line of communication during the season. Be sure to have your parents sign up to get emails from the coaches and team manager about last minute schedule changes and other important announcements.

Additional information is scrolled on Time Warner cable - Channel 13.

#### 4) Clubs

Here is a list of currently active clubs at BCHS. This list will change from year to year as student interests change, so keep listening for more. The 2010 – 2011 advisors are listed; check with him/her for meeting dates and times. Club and activity fees can be paid at Registration in August (for \$25 you can join as many as you like).

Art Club – Sarah Scott, art rooms: This social and service organization is open to all students with an interest in art, even those who do not take art classes. Meetings consist of open studio time to work on projects or explore new ideas and materials. Members go on field trips and regularly contribute their skills to school and community events.

BCTV – Joanie Rueth, library: BCTV broadcasts daily announcements to the entire school and videotapes various school events. Any interested student can join the crew.

Book Club – Library: Members meet approximately once a month. All students who love to read are welcome to join the discussions.

Central Fine Arts Alliance – Tom Lueck

DECA – Megan Doehling. DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools around the globe.

Debate Club – Nancy Eaton: Debate is an activity that promotes competition and teamwork while allowing students to gain skills in communication and logic. Students who have the interest and ability to speak in competitive tournaments are eligible to participate.

Distinguished Young Women of Brookfield – Ellen Linnihan: Formerly called Brookfield's Junior Miss, this program recognizes excellence in young women in five categories: interview, talent, scholastics, self-expression, and fitness. The competition is in January of the girls' junior year. The next step is Distinguished Young Women, a national college scholarship program that begins in junior year and culminates with the national finals competition in Mobile, Alabama, in June following graduation.

Environmental Club

FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)

Forensics – Bob Fuchs: Students have their choice of competing in one of 17 categories. Weekly meetings are held on Mondays in the library. Presentations are prepared during second quarter; tournaments are held most Saturdays during third quarter.

French Club – Mary Mann: Students explore French-speaking cultures through field trips, cooking and film.

Freshmen Mentorship – Bob Fuchs: a group of upperclassmen is chosen to help each freshman make a successful social and academic transition during his/her first year of high school. Mentoring takes place during freshmen homeroom period.

German Club – Elke Sommers: Open to all German students and others interested in learning about German culture through movies, plays, games, and cooking.

Graphics Art Club – Tom Juran: Open to all students with an interest in graphic arts, photography and digital imaging.

Junior Statesmen of America – Chris McBride

K'NEX – This club is designed to help students of color become better connected to our school community. Finding opportunities to educate BCHS about African American culture will be a priority.

Key Club – Ron Blaha and Bruce Follo, Library: Members work together in a team effort to fulfill the needs of their school and local communities through volunteer service. This club is sponsored by the Elm Grove Kiwanis, a worldwide service organization.

Latin Club – Dan Tess: Experience the culture and history of the ancient world, both Roman and Greek, with travel opportunities, toga bowling, state convention and competitions, field trips, and collaborative club events with BEHS's Latin Club.

Odyssey of the Mind - Parents: Part of a national organization, local teams of 5 – 7 members develop creative solutions to a technical or performance-based problem and spend several months working to come up with a solution. The BCHS team often goes to the national competition.

Ping Pong – Jennifer Hutton: Members play ping-pong and compete in tournaments.

Political Science/Youth in Government – Matt Dapelo

Science Team – Mark Mueller

Ski Club – Troy Peterson: Students compete in ski racing.

TRUST/SADD – Holly Eastmann and Jill Michalek: This group is committed to education and awareness of drug and alcohol issues.

Wisconsin Leaders of Tomorrow – Honore Schiro

## 5) Publications

Legend – Tom Juran: The school yearbook records the events of the year. Students will learn about graphics and journalistic writing in original format. Membership is open to any student interested in publications, graphics, photography, or journalism.

Tyro – Jill Cook: The school newspaper is published monthly. Students have an opportunity to do research, conduct interviews, write stories, edit, work on layout, take photos, do artwork, and proofread. Open to all students in all grades.

## 6) Student Government

Student Council – Nita Hodgson & Danna Bowe: Student Council members develop leadership skills through hands-on experience with school government.

Class Councils

Freshman, Bob Fuchs  
Sophomore, Sabrina Hintz  
Junior, Ellen Linnihan  
Senior, Larry Hipp

Council members are elected by their classmates. At each grade level they promote school spirit and provide leadership for all class activities.

#### 7) Honor Groups

National Honor Society – Anna Zimmermann: This organization encourages excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. The Brookfield Central chapter is composed of juniors and seniors.

#### 8.) Music

Band Extracurricular – Jason Gillette/ Matt Friedli: (open to all band students)

Solo/Ensemble Festival

Marching Band: football games and parades

Pep Band: basketball games

Jazz Ensemble 1 and 2 (by audition)

Flag Squad: football games and parades

Orchestra Extracurricular (open to all students)

Solo/ Ensemble Festival

Pit Orchestra: all school musical

Chorus Extracurricular – Phil Olson (open to all students)

Vocal Jazz

Acapella Ensemble

#### 9) Drama

The drama department advisors are Tom Lueck, Honore Schiro and Phil Olson. Participation is open to all students. Productions may include:

All-School Musical (fall)

One-Act Contest Play (fall)

Monologue Show

Studio Show

Madrigal Dinner (winter)

Spring Play

(Not all productions occur every year)

All fees may be paid at registration or within five days after the start of any activity.

#### 10) Community service hours and volunteer opportunities

When you start applying to universities and for scholarships, almost all of them will ask about your community service and volunteer history. There are several opportunities at BCHS to help you meet these requirements and try something new in the community:

- Key Club (National organization, dozens of opportunities, sign up at weekly meetings)

- PTO Student Volunteers (some date-specific events, some ongoing projects)
- Guidance and front office opportunities (student buddy needs, office help, etc. - check with them to see what they need)

#### 11) The front office and the attendance office – when and why to go here

The front office is home to the principal, the two associate principals, the principal's secretary, the attendance secretary, the bookkeeper, and the receptionist. Students come to the front office for a variety of reasons: to pick up forms, to apply for work permits, to make an appointment to see an administrator, and (new in 2010-2011) to see the attendance secretary.

#### 12) The Guidance office

This is where you get advice about classes to take, universities you might want to consider, and careers you might be interested in (and if you have no idea what career direction to think about, there are interest and aptitude tests you can take. Go to the reception desk in the Guidance office and ask for Mrs. Rink. She will be able to answer your questions, hook you up with your assigned counselor or direct you to the appropriate person to get your concerns addressed. Parents are welcome to request a conference at any time.

#### 13) The Health office

The Health office serves two primary functions: to assist students who become ill during the school day, and to administer medication to students who take medicine on a recurring basis. The office is located on the main floor of the school, just down the hall from the main office.

#### 14) School activities

- Homecoming Football game  
This home game is the must-attend event of the fall. The Student Council sponsors the Homecoming court, pep rally, fireworks, lunch activities during homecoming week, and the dance. Only seniors vote for Homecoming court and for king and queen. The Court is open to all seniors who are in compliance with the Activities Code of Conduct.
- Homecoming dance  
Sponsored by the Student Council, the Homecoming Dance is held on Saturday evening after the Friday Homecoming football game (usually September, sometimes October). The dance is in the gym (where it is usually very hot). There are teacher chaperones for this event. Tickets are sold ahead of time at lunch and the \$20 price includes a t-shirt. The dress code is nice for the underclassmen (dress slacks and shirt/tie for guys, nice dress for girls) and themed costume for the upperclassmen. You don't have to have a date; lots of groups of guys or girls go together or meet at the gym. Often students get together as a large group before the dance and have dinner at a restaurant or someone's house. Parents love to take pictures of this. The week before the dance, each grade gets to decorate a wall in the gym. Listen to the announcements to find out how to get involved.
- Other dances

Other dances are held throughout the year and are sponsored by a variety of organizations.

- Prom  
Prom is for the junior class, although anyone can go if asked and accompanied by a junior. This is a date night – guys typically ask the girls and unique invitations are a good idea. Your date doesn't have to be from BCHS, but you will need to fill out a form if he/she is from a different school. In the early spring a lengthy letter from Mr. LaBonte goes to your parents explaining everything about the evening. The dinner/dance is on a Saturday in April and is in a downtown hotel. Transportation is on your own. Dress is formal – tux for the guys and usually a long dress for the girls. Most students get together at someone's house before going downtown, and just be ready for parents taking thousands of pictures. As soon as you get to the hotel, there is a Grand March – a couple-by-couple procession down the stairs. This is the only part of the evening that parents can attend and there are hundreds of them taking even more pictures. The Prom King and Queen are announced at this time. Prom tickets are sold ahead of time at lunch and last year the price was \$150 per couple. No tickets are sold at the door because the caterer needs a headcount in advance. The dinner is good and the dance is a LOT of fun.
- Post Prom  
After Prom almost everyone goes to Post Prom. This themed party is sponsored by the PTO and is advertised as a safe, substance-free event, but there is a lot to do and everyone has a great time. It is a free event for students who attend Prom. It is held at school from midnight to 3:00 am, but once you leave you can't go back in. You can change out of your prom clothes there (pack a bag and keep it in your car) and Men's Wearhouse usually comes to pick up the guys' tuxes so you don't have to return them the next day. There is a chaperone to watch everyone's stuff, including the girls' dresses and accessories. There is a ton of food, music, big inflatables, casino tables, games, photo booth, raffles, and prizes. At 3:00 am lots of students go to someone's house for an after-party. Don't miss this Prom/Post Prom fourteen-hour event!
- Senior ball  
This winter dance is for the senior class, although anyone can go if invited and accompanied by a senior. It is another date night – the girls usually ask the guys. The dress is formal but there is no "post ball" event as there is for Prom. Last year it was held at the Silver Springs Country Club and the ticket price was \$45 per person, including dinner, dance, and pizza. The Ball is organized by the senior teacher advisor and the senior class council. Parents often host a pre-ball photo gathering or a post party for their senior and his/her friends.
- Athletic Events/Cheer and Dance Groups/Band  
To feel more connected, consider attending as many athletic events as possible. Every athlete team loves to have an audience, but some sports and venues are better suited for spectators. The most popular spectator sports are boys' football, basketball and soccer, and girls' basketball and soccer. By all means check out meets/games for the other sports that interest you.

- Varsity games are played on these nights:
  - Football - Friday
  - Basketball – Tuesday and Friday (girls' and boys' games alternate being at home)
  - Soccer - Tuesday and Friday (boys play in the fall and the girls play in the spring)
  - Volleyball -Tuesday and Thursday (girls' and boys' games alternate being at home)
- Cheerleaders cheer for football, soccer and basketball games. To find out how to become a cheerleader, contact the head cheer coach Lauren Kendall (KendallL@elmbrookschools.org).
- The Dance Team performs at some games. To find out more about participating with the Lancerettes, contact Joy Taylor at (262) 785-3918.
- The band will perform at some football games and a couple of the basketball games. The band travels with each team if they go to the State Tournament. The band contact is Jason Gillette (GillettJ@elmbrookschools.org.)
- To find out where and when games are played, go to the BCHS website. This information is often listed on the home page. Remember to take your Student ID /Activity Pass to get into all home games. The optional Activity Pass can be purchased at Registration in August. Attending an individual game is usually \$3 or \$4.
- Pep rallies/assemblies  
Occasionally all students go to the gym for pep rallies before important games. Assemblies are a regularly scheduled part of the curriculum and are designed to be educational as well as entertaining experiences.
- Student Council  
The main purpose of Student Council is to promote school spirit, support staff, represent students in governing the school, and plan both charity and school events. Our largest activities include Homecoming events, Senior Citizens Turkey Dinner, a special fundraiser for a chosen charity, adoption of three families for the holidays, regional Student Council conferences, attending and competing at state conferences, and various activities that are decided upon by the council members. We have members from all grade levels, though we are limiting the numbers per lunch hour this year. Grade level councils are responsible for various activities for just that class, i.e. Junior class runs Prom, senior class runs Senior Ball, the freshmen and sophomore classes sponsor activities to raise funds for the two major dances.
- Graduation  
Commencement exercises are held in the Brookfield East field house on the Sunday following the last day of school in June. The ceremony lasts about two hours. Seating and acoustics are not as bad as you might think and there is plenty of handicapped seating available. No tickets are necessary and there are no restrictions on the number of guests you can have. Caps, tassels, gowns, invitations and many other graduation items are ordered in the fall. Rehearsal is mandatory and is on the Friday before commencement. Dress code for rehearsal is casual, but you need to dress up for the actual ceremony (dress pants, shirt & tie, dress shoes for the guys, nice dress and shoes for the girls – no sneakers, sandals or flip flops).

## 15) Grade-specific information

### Freshmen

- Homeroom procedures  
All freshmen are in a homeroom that meets four times a week during the last nineteen minutes of their lunch hour. Freshmen are dismissed from lunch and proceed to their homerooms, where they work with a faculty member and upperclassmen mentors to help with the transition to high school.
- EXPLORE test  
This test is part of the ACT family of tests and is taken on the Test Fest day in October. It serves as an early indicator of college readiness and is a useful career exploration tool. EXPLORE has four multiple-choice subject tests and the maximum score is 25. The \$9.00 fee can be paid on Registration Day in August.
- Freshmen Mentors  
The Freshman Mentors are upperclassmen whose job is to help freshmen adjust to life in the high school. Each freshman homeroom has several mentors who are there to answer questions and help you figure out all kinds of situations. Mentors are assigned to classrooms for the entire year, although specific mentors may change classrooms between semesters as their own schedules change.

### Sophomores

- PLAN test  
The PLAN test is also part of the ACT family of tests and is taken on Test Fest day in October. It is a pre-ACT practice test, has four multiple-choice subject tests, and has a maximum score of 32. The \$11.00 fee can be paid on Registration Day in August.
- WKCE testing  
This is the same Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam you took in 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. There is no charge for this state test.
- Guidance conference  
In the winter you will meet with your guidance counselor to make sure your proposed course selection will put you on track for graduation. You will talk about the kind of college you have in mind and the career choices that interest you.
- Ordering class rings  
Class rings can be ordered from Jostens.

### Juniors

- PSAT test  
This test is part of the CollegeBoard family of tests. It measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills and writing skills. It is practice for the SAT, but it also qualifies you for National Merit Scholarship status (National Merit semi-finalists and finalists come from this test, not the SAT). It is part of Test Fest in October and the \$13 fee can be paid on Registration Day in August.
- ACT test  
The ACT is one of the standardized tests that colleges use to decide whether or not they are going to accept you. This test is common in the central section of the US (the SAT is

more common on the coasts, but most schools recognize both). The ACT measures your knowledge in several subject areas and the maximum score is 36. The test is not a school test; it is administered by the ACT company and is offered several times throughout the year (off-campus). Most people take it as juniors, although you can take it any time in high school. Most students take it more than once to improve their scores. Consider taking it just after semester exams because you know as much as you are going to know at that point in time. Registration is online – see [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org) for more information about dates, locations, fees, etc. ( Hint – take this test seriously. Prepare well. STUDY for it – there are loads of test prep sites, services, and review books.)

- SAT test

The SAT is part of the CollegeBoard family of tests. It is a national standardized test that helps colleges determine what you know and how you are able to apply that knowledge, and they use your scores to decide whether or not they are going to admit you. The SAT has reading, writing and math components, and the maximum score is 2400 (800 on each section). The test is not a school test; it is administered by the CollegeBoard company and is offered several times throughout the year (off-campus). See the above section on the ACT for more information on general test taking, and go to [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com) for more specific information on the SAT, SAT subject tests and registration.

- Junior guidance conference

Students meet with their guidance counselor to plan for senior classes and to think about college choices that match their career interests. Parents can attend this meeting.

- College night

In October, at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center, a panel of college representatives gives a presentation to parents and students (mostly juniors, also sophomores) about selecting schools. The most popular schools in Wisconsin and nearby states are represented, but the information is valuable for the application process anywhere. This is a good seminar to attend. Hint – it is not an Open House, so be on time.

- Mr. BC

Junior guys compete for the title of Mr. BC (Brookfield Central). It isn't exactly a pageant, but they do perform in some very special ways. There are four areas of competition: Talent, Fitness, Self Expression (impromptu Q & A on stage), and Fundraising.

Fundraising, with proceeds going to the junior class, is determined by the amount of money each contestant raises through program book ads and donations made by fans during the week prior to the event. A panel of judges consists of board members for the Junior Miss program. The competition is held on a weeknight in November (usually the week before Thanksgiving) and anyone can attend. Do not miss this hilarious event.

- Junior Miss

This is a national program, organized on a city-based system, so it's slightly complicated. Junior Miss is a BCHS club, and all volunteers for the program are unpaid. In that regard, it is not really "sponsored" by the school. In addition, the program is undergoing a national name change. As of the time of our local program in January, we will officially become the Distinguished Young Women of Brookfield.

Here is a brief summary: Distinguished Young Women of Brookfield (formerly Brookfield's Junior Miss) is a national program that recognizes excellence in young women in five categories: interview (25%), talent (25%), scholastics (20%), self expression (15%), and fitness (15%). The platform of the program is "Be Your Best Self", a message that the young women spread to the youth of the community via presentations and projects with the Girl Scouts and Boys and Girls Clubs. DYW (Distinguished Young Women) is a college scholarship program for high school girls, which begins in the junior year and culminates in the national finals in Mobile, Alabama in June after graduation. Since 1958, the program has helped over 700,000 deserving young women obtain the education and opportunities they deserve. Since the establishment of the Brookfield program in 2005, the local representative has been selected to represent the state four out of six times. The current Distinguished Young Woman of Wisconsin is Patricia Paskov (BEHS). Interested participants should apply at [distinguishedyw.org](http://distinguishedyw.org) during their junior year. In Brookfield, meetings typically begin in October, with the culminating program held in January.

- Prom Court

The junior class votes for members of Prom Court (all candidates are juniors). Voting takes place in the spring and the winners are announced at Prom during the Grand March.

- Class rings

It is not too late to order a class ring if you didn't get one last year.

- Senior portraits

Though they are called senior portraits, they are taken during the summer after your junior year. Senior portraits for the yearbook are not like regular school pictures. Be sure to use a professional photographer. The studio will take several poses; you can choose one for your yearbook portrait and as many others as you like for your family and friends. Look for a letter from school in the spring that explains requirements and deadlines (digital files for your yearbook portrait are due at school in mid-September). In the spring of your junior year you will receive MANY enticing advertisements in the mail from studios around town. Consider carefully, because these can be very expensive. How do you want to see yourself in twenty years, or even next spring when the yearbook comes out?

## Seniors

- Lockers

You get to choose your locker in the senior hallways. You must still use a school-issued lock.

- Class colors

You vote on your class color at the end of your junior year. The cover of the student directory is the senior class color.

- Homecoming Court

Homecoming Court is made up of seniors. Online voting (by seniors) takes place early in the school year. The court is presented at the Homecoming football game.

- Senior Ball Court

Senior Ball Court is made up of seniors who are elected by the senior class. Presentation of the court and crowing of the king and queen occur at the dance.

- Senior guidance conference

You will meet with your guidance counselor early in the year to talk about career directions, college applications and possible scholarships.

- Class rings

It is not too late to order a class ring if you didn't get one as a sophomore or junior.

- Project Graduation

This special event is for all BCHS Seniors to gather together one last time as a class. Project Graduation is usually held at the Highlander Elite Fitness and Raquet Club (near the Lilly & Burleigh intersection) from 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m. on the evening of the graduation ceremony. The current cost of \$20 includes many activities, games, music, amazing prizes, a variety of entertainment (you've got to see the hypnotist – it's crazy), and an abundance of food provide for a night the seniors will long remember. Schedules and ticket information will be sent to all senior families in the spring, so keep the night of graduation open for this unforgettable event.

#### 16) General stuff to know

- When you need your student ID

To check out library books, to go to the bathroom at lunch, and at many activities, sports events, and performances on campus.

- Closed campus

We have a closed campus policy. Students must stay in the school building from the time they arrive until dismissal, unless they have otherwise been excused by parents and school officials. However, during final semester exams, the school has an open campus policy. Students may leave the school when they are not taking semester exams.

- The cafeteria

The cafeteria works the same way as middle school. You can use cash or your account (give your student number to the checkout lady). You can add money to your account by bringing a check from home and giving it to the checkout lady (or you can pay online). Did you know your parents can find out exactly what you buy for lunch each day? You might want to reconsider some of the choices you make. As far as finding someone to sit with, your friends might have a different lunch hour than you, so you are going to have to look for other people you recognize and ask to sit at their table. Generally people go to the same table every day and sit with the same people.

- The R-rated movie rule

Sometimes teachers may show segments of R-rated movies in their class. The segments are pertinent to the lesson and do not contain material that contributes to the R rating. Teachers must secure the permission of the principal and notify parents before the movie is shown. In the rare case that an entire film is shown, permission slips are sent home and students who opt-out of viewing the film are provided an alternate activity.

- Locks for your locker

At your first registration you will have to buy a school-issued lock, but it's yours to keep for all the years you are at BCHS. OR you can bring the school-issued lock you got in middle school. Either way, at registration you will have to record your locker number and lock combination. We recommend not losing your lock and not forgetting your combination over the summer.

- Cell phones

You are allowed to have your cell phone at school but you may not use it during the day.

#### 17) Whom to ask for what

- Anything sports-related

Ask Mrs. Taylor in the athletic office (near the pool exit doors). She can even store your oversized equipment (too big for your locker) if you are leaving right after school for a meet, match or game. She will keep it for the day, but her office is not a permanent closet.

- Anything academic or guidance-related

Ask Mrs. Rink in the guidance office. She schedules appointments with the counselors and issues transcripts (262) 785-3990.

#### 18) Student - Administration interaction

- New Student Lunch

This is a welcome lunch for new sophomore, junior and senior students. You will receive an invitation from the office in the first month of school.

- 411 lunches

Periodically the administration has an open lunch with students who have ideas, questions or concerns. These are announced in advance and anyone can come.

- Shield Awards

SHIELD awards are a way to recognize students who have demonstrated good citizenship or leadership. Staff members submit SHIELD cards to the office with a student's name on it and every week winning names are drawn for each grade level.

There is also one grand prizewinner each week. For example, a SHIELD card might be submitted for a student who allows prospective students to shadow him/her.

#### 19) Advice From Those Who Have Gone Before You

- Get into good study habits right away. You won't regret it. I'm serious.
- Try as many clubs and sports and activities as possible. You will find the one that feels right for you. Don't be afraid to change your mind and try something new if the first one isn't working.
- Get to know your teachers and communicate often. When you take the time to talk to them to truly understand their material and expectations, they take an extra interest in your success.

#### 20) Parking

Students can drive their cars to school. Parking spaces are assigned. You can buy a parking pass at Registration in August, and some are available at the front office at the change of semester in January. The price is \$100 per semester or \$3 for a day pass (see the front office for these).

## 21) School websites

- Moodle  
This is a program used by teachers to post assignments and communicate to students.
- Infinite Campus  
This online tool is used by teachers to post grades during each grading period. You (and your parents – hint, hint!) can see what quizzes, tests and projects were assigned and how well you did on them. Other information is also available on this website. You should be able to register right away as a new student.
- School email  
A student's address is:  
the (first seven letters of the last name) (first initial) @elmbrookstudents.org. A password and ID number are also given to the student from school.
- School portals  
Throughout the year there are opportunities for students to participate in surveys and vote for things via the online school portal.

## FOR PARENTS

As your children make the transition to high school, they are correctly expected to take responsibility for almost everything related to school. However, parents are just as suddenly expected to back off and magically learn things by osmosis. We have all heard the irritating zinger comment, “**Mom, you're supposed to just know**”. Parents, this section is for you.

### 1) Resources - who's who and what they do

- School email addresses  
All school district email addresses use the same format: the first seven letters of the person's last name followed by the first initial followed by @ elmbrookschoools.org. For example: (johnsonj@elmbrookschoools.org).
- Front office  
The front office is home to the principal, the two associate principals, the principal's administrative assistant, the attendance office, the bookkeeper, and the receptionist. Parents must always stop here when entering the building; you will need to sign in and get a visitor's pass before going to your destination. Students come to the front office for a variety of reasons: to pick up forms, to apply for work permits, to make an appointment to see an administrator, and (new in 2010-2011) to visit the attendance office.  
Principal – Mr. LaBonte  
Mr. LaBonte is ultimately responsible for everything that goes on in our school. His administrative assistant is Su Edington.  
Associate principals

Our associate principals, Mr. Darin and Ms. Collins, have very broad roles. They function as the principal in Mr. LaBonte's absence. They deal most directly with student issues, which may include discipline, age of majority requests, attendance, and classroom or peer concerns. Mr. Darin works with students whose last names begin with A-K and Ms. Collins has L-Z, though everyone in the front office helps out as needed. Additionally, Ms. Collins handles schedule requests for the building and Mr. Darin manages the Youth Options program.

#### Attendance office

The attendance office keeps very careful track of who is at school and who is not, and for which classes or hours. If you know your student will be absent for the entire day, call the attendance office early in the morning. The number is in the student directory (262-785-3994). If your student will be absent for part of the day (you need to take them to the orthodontist, for example), send a detailed note with him/her and make sure it is delivered to the attendance office before school. They will get a pass to leave class. You may occasionally get a recorded phone call in the afternoon or evening saying your student "missed one or more periods today". Perhaps they played hooky, but more likely there was an error in the teacher's attendance count. Students need to take care of this the next day by stopping at the attendance office to get more information. Failure to take care of unexcused absences will impact exam exemptions and have other consequences.

- **Guidance office**

Tracy Rink, the Guidance administrative assistant, is the person to contact (785-3990). She can transfer your call to your child's counselor, and she schedules appointments with the guidance counselors, social worker, psychologist, or information-processing department (class schedules). She also sends out transcripts. There is more information in the Guidance and Counseling section of the BCHS student assignment notebook. This handbook is given to students on the first day of class and has a lot of general information.

- **Health office**

Assists ill children and dispenses medications to students who take medication on a regular basis.

- **Student Handbook/Assignment Log**

Your child's school-issued assignment notebook (this comes home on the first day of school) is also the student handbook. This is another great place for parents to refer for answers to questions on policy and procedures.

- **Student directory**

This indispensable book has student names, grade level, address, home phone number and parent names for all students in the school (unless the family "opts out"). The student directory also lists:

- Elmbrook School District's Central Administration Office (CAO) information
- School Board members
- Daily bell schedule
- Important school phone numbers
- Administrator, staff and teacher names
- Athletic field locations in the metro area

- PTO board member information

Books can be ordered at Registration in August and Open House in early September, and they can be purchased from the front office at other times of the year. The cost for the first book is \$20 and additional copies are \$5 each. The sale of student directories is the source of funding for the PTO and all of its services rendered to the students and staff of BCHS.

## 2) School Traditions

- Open house and PIN (Parent Information Night) – early September
- Homecoming football game and the Homecoming Dance – September or October
- Class rings – ordered sophomore year
- Senior portraits – summer after junior year
- Senior Ball – this is a winter dance
- Commencement – held in the fieldhouse at BEHS on a Sunday in June
- Other school dances
- Sport banquets
- Madrigal show
- One Act – a theater performance that is also entered into competition
- School plays
- Music concerts – band, orchestra, choir
- Parent/Teacher conferences
- Junior Prom and the Post-Prom party - April
- Bebop and BBQ event – barbeque dinner followed by a raffle and the big band sounds of Central's outstanding jazz band.
- Project Graduation – a PTO sponsored party on the evening after Commencement
- Overseas language trips – taken in the summer, these are planned on a rotating schedule
- Music trips – students perform in various competitions in other cities
- Drama trips

## 3) Athletics

- Plan to be flexible. Expect to be surprised by sudden new information or changes in plan. Anticipate hearing about team bus departure times at the very last minute. Don't be surprised if the cross-country team ends up running practice in a park you've never heard of. Know that you might find out about the carbo cram as your child is on the way there. Welcome them home from practice in an unknown friend's car; they do not think this is cause for alarm and they would probably rather walk home than be picked up by you. This is your new life...
- Resources: the Athletic/Activities Director is Todd Sobrilsky, 262-785-3918 or [sobrilst@elmbrookschoools.org](mailto:sobrilst@elmbrookschoools.org). The athletic office administrative assistant is Joy Taylor, 785-3918 or [taylorj@elmbrookschoools.org](mailto:taylorj@elmbrookschoools.org).
- When each sport starts, coaches call meetings for interested students. For sports that start after September, these are announced on the daily announcements and students can attend and sign up.

- Generally coaches also have a parents' meeting at the beginning of the season. You will probably find out about this by email as the coaches ask students for parents' email addresses. As the season continues, check your email FREQUENTLY as schedule changes are often announced at the very last minute by the coach or team manager.
- Coaches will tell students when and where practices will be. Generally practice is every day for the duration of the season.
- Meets/games – students and parents should have schedules in hand after the initial meetings. Meets and games can change during the season, so pay attention to emails that come from the coaches. Attend as many of your student's games as possible – they secretly like to know you are there. Hint from those who have gone before you: be sure you know EXACTLY where the game or meet will take place. This includes the full name of the location (so you can Mapquest the correct place) as well as WHERE in the park or building the team will actually be and what entrance to use. Ask coaches for maps.
- Varsity sports – varsity sports are intense! Practices are long, attendance at all games is mandatory (and games are usually on the weekends), travel can be quite a distance away, and the general time commitment is huge. Encourage your student to manage study time wisely.
- Carbo Crams – most teams have carbo crams a day or two before a meet or game. Parents rotate hosting duties. One house hosts and provides the main course, and all athletes take side dishes or drinks. Each sport varies in the formality of carbo crams.
- Booster Club – parents join this organization for added support of our athletes. Admission to many events is included at various membership levels.
- Sports banquets are usually offered at the end of each athletic season, and all sports from that season are included. The Booster Club also sponsors several banquets during the school year.
- Fundraisers – each sport organizes its own fundraising activities. Be generous – budgets are slim.
- Costs - participation in one sport requires a \$60 fee paid to the school, and the fee for two or more sports is capped at \$120/athlete.
- Paperwork and medical forms must be completed before the first practice of each sport (call the athletic office for questions).
- Uniforms will be handed out by the coaches and the parent team manager. They need to be returned at the end of the season (well washed, please). Additional spirit wear may be offered for purchase.
- Off-season and summer sports opportunities – call the athletic office administrative assistant, Mrs. Taylor, at 785-3918 or [taylorj@elmbrookschoools.org](mailto:taylorj@elmbrookschoools.org).

#### 4) Academics

- Standardized testing – what tests, what grade levels, why they are important, dates, results. Refer to the student section of this packet or visit the school website and check the Guidance home page.
- Grading scales  
Listed in the student information section of this packet.

- Report Cards  
 Grades are distributed four times a year. First and third quarter report cards may be picked up by parents when they attend conferences, or they may be printed from Infinite Campus. Semester grades are sent home in the mail.
- Talking to teachers
  - Email teachers for the best and fastest turn-around time.
  - Open House / Parent Information Night is usually the second week of school on Thursday evening. Be on time – you will be following your child’s schedule (there are bells for each class) and you will have the opportunity to meet each teacher. If you have more than one child at BCHS, consider bringing someone else to split the schedules.
  - Parent Teacher conferences are in November and March  
 November conferences are held during Thanksgiving week. Specific appointments can be made for daytime conferences. Evening conferences are staged in the cafeteria and gym; each teacher has a station and parents can sit with them on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are several waiting chairs at each station. You are strongly encouraged to visit as many of your student’s teachers as possible. March conferences are organized in a similar manner.
- Youth Options  
 Students who have exhausted a course of study in the high school may be eligible for Youth Options. This program allows high school students to continue their education in that subject area at the college level. The person to contact at the school is Mrs. Moschella, the Gifted and Talented coordinator.
- Vocational Opportunities and work study (Career Employment Opportunity)  
 Work-study is a class for upperclassmen and is offered through our Business Department. The guidance counselors are ready to answer any vocational questions you have.

5) Parent organizations and volunteer opportunities – how to get involved

- Unlike elementary or middle school, there is no one centralized parent group at BCHS. Support organizations and volunteer opportunities are organized according to your child’s classes, sports or activities.
- Booster Club  
 This group of parents provides funding for every sport including cheerleaders and Lancerettes (the dance team). All parents are encouraged to join as all monies go back to their children’s programs. Mike Rohr is president and can be reached at 821-3416.
- Applause  
 Applause Inc. supports all the fine arts at Brookfield Central High School, including orchestra, band, choir, theater, visual arts and imaging. The organization receives funds from family membership fees, donations, fund-raisers, and the Pick and Save “We Care” program. Members of Applause advocate for fine arts programming at the district level and encourage attendance at fine arts performances. In addition to publishing an on-line monthly newsletter titled “Ovation”, Applause contributes articles to the BCHS newsletter and community newspapers. Everyone is invited and encouraged to join Applause and support BCHS fine arts! President and contact person is Julie Scott (789-8620).

- G&T- Gifted and Talented parent group  
The parent G&T advisory board serves as the communication link between parents of the gifted and talented students and the Elmbrook School district. The contact person can be reached at KLWS@wi.rr.com.
- Special Education Advisory Board  
The mission of the SEAB is to advocate and support families of children with unique abilities and educational needs as well as promoting specific forms of advocacy. Meetings are open to all families and are held the first Wednesday of the month at the Central Administration Office. Contact Pam Haselow 262-227-3313 (Phaselow@wi.rr.com) or Brookfield Central parent liaison Kim Workman 262 821-6223 (tworkmed@aol.com).

Disabilities and conditions represented by members of the SEAB include but are not limited to cognitive disabilities, autism/pervasive developmental disorders, cerebral palsy, specific learning disabilities, emotional behavioral disabilities, visual or hearing impairments, speech/language disabilities, traumatic brain injury, Down syndrome, Fragile X syndrome, spina bifida, Attention Deficit Disorder, and epilepsy.

- EPLC – Elmbrook Parent Leadership Council  
Networking organization of PTO presidents of all 11 schools in the Elmbrook district. A fall program is offered for all parents in the district.  
Contact Jane Peavler 938-0547 or Kristin Urban 784-2863.
- EEF – Elmbrook Education Foundation  
The Elmbrook Education Foundation mission is to promote educational excellence by providing continuing education scholarships and educational grants to District of Elmbrook students and schools. Several fundraising events are held throughout the year. The District serves approximately 7500 students across 11 public schools. Contact Laura Schmidt at 785-6659.
- PTO – Parent Teacher Organization  
The PTO is your link between parents and BCHS staff. We provide many services:
  - Mini-grants to teachers for projects outside the regular school budget
  - Volunteers for a variety of school functions, including registration day in August
  - School Directory
  - Central Connections (the booklet you are reading right now)
  - Post Prom party
  - Project Graduation party
  - Hospitality events for parents and teachers
  - Principal Chats
  - Online updates in monthly school newsletter
  - Welcome services for new families

The PTO meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 3:30 pm in the Large Conference Room at the high school. Board President is Melanie Bathurst, 785-0717.
- PLAN (Parent Legislative Alliance Network)

The Elmbrook PLAN group advocates for public policy that promotes high quality public education in the Elmbrook School district. The group may be contacted through this website [www.elmbrookplan.com](http://www.elmbrookplan.com).

#### 6) Painless fundraisers (and the other, more painful, kind)

BCHS has three ongoing, painless school wide fundraisers. These can be used by anyone at anytime, even though your child may not be directly involved in the activities the fundraiser supports.

- Office Depot
  - 5% back to BCBS on qualifying purchases all year round on in-store & online purchases and phone orders
  - Mention BCBS school ID # 70108400 at checkout
  - Benefits Post Prom and Project Graduation (PTO sponsored celebrations) and the administrative office fund
- Pick 'n Save *We Care* program
  - Percentage back to BCBS on purchases
  - Register at the service counter and give the BCBS code # 0074500
  - Benefits Applause fine arts organization
- Target REDCard *Take Charge of Education* program
  - This credit card gives 1% back to BCBS on Target purchases
  - Apply at the store service counter or online
  - Benefits student support programs throughout BCBS

Other fundraisers are sponsored by individual organizations. Look for concession stand sales at sporting events, bake sales, car washes, etc.

#### 7) Touchpoints

- District and school websites
  - Elmbrook School District, Central Administration Offices – [www.elmbrookschoools.org](http://www.elmbrookschoools.org)
  - BCBS – on the district web page, find and click on “schools” on the left side of the page. Under high schools choose Brookfield Central.
- Parking
  - Parents may park in the first two rows of the front lot right by the main entrance to the school. These spots are not numbered (all numbered spots are assigned to teachers and students).
- Daily announcements
  - The school’s daily announcements can be sent to you by email. Contact Joanie Reuth at [Reuthj@elmbrookschoools.org](mailto:Reuthj@elmbrookschoools.org) to add your name to the list.
- Parent Link phone calls
  - These automated phone calls are made from a central location and are used to communicate important messages simultaneously to large groups of homes. Examples are calls from the Central Administration Office to all houses in the district announcing school closings due to weather, calls from Mr. LaBonte’s office to all BCBS families

inviting them to Open House, or calls to specific groups of BCHS families (such as the junior class) with information that is pertinent only to them.

- Newsletter  
The front office publishes an online newsletter every month. It has information from a wide variety of school offices, departments and organizations. Please read this – it will answer many questions during the school year. A Parent Link phone call will tell you when the next issue is available. The newsletter can also be accessed from the school website.
- PTO meetings and newsletter  
PTO meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 3:30 in the afternoon in the Large Conference Room. All parents are welcome and your input and participation is sincerely appreciated. Please join us! PTO meeting minutes are available on the PTO page of the school website. Other PTO information is posted each month in the online school newsletter. This year's PTO president is Melanie Bathurst; her contact information is 785-0717 or mbathurst@wi.rr.com.
- BCTV and school announcements  
The in-house TV channel at school is staffed by the public speaking class. They produce the daily announcements that are publicized in several ways:
  - Until technology renovations are complete, announcements are videotaped and shown in the morning at school.
  - During lunch the announcements are repeated.
  - During all other periods of the day, announcements are scrolled on large screen TVs in the cafeteria (the scroll is silent to keep study halls quiet).
  - Students can access announcements through the online student portal.
  - For parents, announcements are available either on the school website or through a daily email blast.
- School Board TV channel  
For videos of school board meetings, go to Time Warner Access Channel 13.
- Infinite Campus  
Infinite Campus is the online portal to view your student's grades, attendance, class schedule, health records, and status of fees paid. Access is usually given to you upon initial registration with the school district. You may also register through the district website (select Parent Resources on the left side of the home page, scroll down to Current Parents, and click on IC Parent Portal). Follow the instructions.
- Moodle  
This website is used by teachers to post daily assignments and other communication to students.

## 8) Heads Up!!

- Guiding your child toward the next step  
Competition for post-high school programs, colleges and scholarships is very intense. Talk to him/her about doing as well as possible in school and on standardized tests. Encourage participation in sports, clubs and activities. Depending on his/her interests

and accomplishments you will need to find the right balance between depth (sticking with something for a number of years) and breadth (trying many new things). Questions about community service and leadership positions will appear on most college and scholarship applications, so plan ahead for meaningful experiences that can enhance your student's resume. Point out that he/she doesn't have to excel at everything, but doing well and having a variety of proven accomplishments will put them in a position to have more choices and opportunities in the future.

- Social cliques and bullying

These can be a very unpleasant fact of life if your child is the one who is excluded or targeted and it is very hard to actually do anything about it. Most of the work will have to be on your end to change your child's situation instead of expecting the offender to be caught and punished. Be aware of your child's friends and groups. If he/she seems to be withdrawing from the social scene, ask and ask again until you find out why. Encourage him/her to find new groups and different extra curricular activities if the current situation is not positive. There is a strong belief that every student should have at least one club activity to prevent the feeling of being an outsider. Work with your guidance counselor; they have a lot of experience and they have many tricks up their sleeves. You can also work with the school psychologist. Should the process of exclusion reach the level of bullying, the district has a formal grievance process. It is recommended starting at the teacher, building administrator, or guidance level, but the process can be documented by a formal written form.

- Inclement weather

There are three ways to find out if school is closed due to weather. A Parent Link phone call will be made very early in the morning if school is going to be closed. The district website will also post this information on the home page. A much slower and less reliable source is to watch local TV stations.

- Age of Majority

Your 18-year old can register for Age of Majority by filling out the proper form from the front office. You have to sign it. While this gives them several new rights, it may also lead to relinquishment of your rights to communicate with the school regarding grades, attendance or discipline issues.

- Test Fest

This is a day in October when almost all freshmen, sophomores and juniors take standardized tests. Seniors do not; their time is structured in a different way.

- Summer school

Summer school offers some remedial classes as well as an opportunity to take Phy Ed classes and get them out of the way (take an interesting elective during the year!). It is a great way to get teenagers out of bed on summer mornings. For extra character building, have them ride their bike to class. Registration information will be available in March on the Elmbrook Schools website ([elmbrookschools.org](http://elmbrookschools.org)). Click on Parent Resources, then click on Summer School Information.

- Driver's Ed

Driver's Ed is not offered by the school district. There are several driving schools in the area that most families use. Students under the age of 18 must go to driving school before getting a license. Regulations and requirements are available from the driving schools or the Department of Motor Vehicles.

- Report cards  
Report cards are issued at the end of each nine-week grading period. GPA and class rank are listed on semester report cards, but not quarter reports. Infinite Campus reports mid-nine grades as well as day-to-day updates of graded assignments for each class.
- National Honor Society  
Students are first eligible for NHS in the fall of their junior year. They will receive an invitation that lists the requirements for membership. Contact person for the organization is Mrs. Anna Zimmerman.
- School Store  
Contact person is Bob Fuchs. The store is open for business during all lunch hours; contact the BCHS front office additional hours. Special orders will be taken. Great gift items available.
- The cafeteria
  - Hot lunch vs. a la carte or cold lunch  
As students go through the cafeteria line they may choose the lunch of the day or order separate items such as salads, drinks, etc. Students may also have cold lunch (brought from home) and just get something to drink.
  - Cash or Elmbrook Food Service account?  
Students can pay cash or have money debited from their Food Services Account. At the cashier station they need to provide the attendant with their ID number to use their account.
  - Adding money to a Food Service account  
Your child should let you know when his/her lunch account is running low. You may send a check in an envelope with the student's name, grade, and ID number written on the front. The student will give this to the cashier and the amount will be deposited into his/her account. A second option is to call Food Services at the Central Administrative Offices. The contact person is Colleen Vickio at 262-781-3030, ext. 1175. Lunch money can be added this way.
  - Transferring money between accounts  
Money may be transferred from one student's account to another (for example, one student graduates and any remaining balance can be transferred to a younger student). Call Colleen Vickio for this service.
  - Menus  
Menus can be picked up from the front office at school, or you can print them from the school district website (not the BCHS website). On the left side of the home page, click on Parent Resources, find Current Parents, then click on Food Services, then click on Menus.
  - Lunch periods

There are three lunch periods during the school day – 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Your child may have the same lunch both semesters or not, and his/her lunch period will probably be different from year to year.

**We hope you have enjoyed this Central Connections booklet.**

**Published by the BCHS PTO**

**September 2010**