



Tuesday, August 1, 2017

Dear Bruin families,

The past year at Bear River was one of the most memorable of my career... we experienced the highest highs and lowest lows together -- from being named a California Gold Ribbon School to losing two of our wonderful students in an accident, it was a rollercoaster of emotion from start to finish. Standing there at graduation celebrating the Class of 2017 back in June, I was struck by the overwhelming feeling of love, support, and connection. As a parent, I know there is nothing more important about school than knowing your child will be loved, cared for, noticed, challenged, encouraged, and inspired. I am lucky to work with a staff that aspires to fulfilling this mission every single day. **We are determined to make Bear River High School the school no one ever wants to leave.**

First and foremost, we are here to educate our young people, ensuring that their Bear River diplomas become passports to incredibly bright futures for which they are immensely prepared. Our state standards emphasize critical thinking, problem-solving, inquiry, collaboration, and communication, which we are working diligently to infuse into all aspects of the Bear River education. We are studying our student achievement data, exploring effective instructional techniques, and gaining the expertise in how to utilize technology to enhance learning. Meanwhile, we are devoted to making sure that EVERY student is connected to our campus in meaningful ways beyond the classroom, which is often achieved through our thriving co-curricular and extra-curricular programs, the arts, clubs, and athletic programs.

We are also fully committed to helping our Bruins develop as human beings, which is, ultimately, the foundation of everything else they will accomplish in their lives. This past spring, we worked together with the entire student body to create our CORE VALUES, which will serve as the basis for all of our decisions and actions as we move forward. We know it is important that these values are embodied by all of us; even though it's sometimes hard to tell, adults still do have tremendous influence in the lives of teenagers! Our new Core Values are:

**GRIT \* EMPATHY \* INTEGRITY  
INTELLECTUAL & CREATIVE CURIOSITY \* COMMUNITY**

There are some very exciting changes and shifts happening at BRHS this year, including new courses, incredibly exciting facilities improvements, and several awesome new staff members. **I look forward to introducing all of these new elements to you at Back to School Night on Tuesday, August 29th.** If you know me, you know that I will communicate with you... often and extensively... to the point that you will have no choice but to be completely in the loop on everything going on at Bear River at all times! I believe strongly in the power of working as a team -- staff, students, families, and community -- which makes us so much more powerful, especially when we are united around the same goal: ensuring that our students receive a challenging, inspiring, first-rate education and thrive as human beings.

Of course, my door (and heart and mind) are open to you and your family at all times. This year is going to be exceptional, thanks to your dedication to Bear River. I feel strongly that we are right on the precipice of some incredible things -- I have very high expectations for 2017-2018 and am confident that this school

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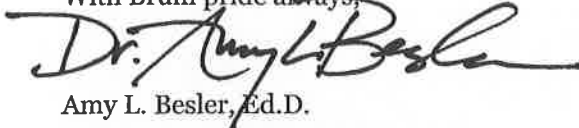
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family will thrive in new and exciting ways. Thank you for all of your support and please do feel free to reach out to me at any time. I cannot wait for this school year adventure to begin! Let's do this, Bruins!

And now... to sign my name for the first time as Dr. Besler...

With Bruin pride always,



Amy L. Besler, Ed.D.  
Principal, Bear River High School  
Email: abesler@njuhsd.com

*Don't forget to "like" us on Facebook, "follow" us on Instagram,  
and check out our BRHS website!*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!**

<b>Student schedules available (on eSchools Home Access)</b>	<b>Friday, August 11</b>	
<b>Senior Information Night</b>	<b>Monday, August 14</b>	<b>6 - 7 PM</b>
<b>Freshmen/New Students Orientation</b>	<b>Tuesday, August 15</b>	<b>6 - 7 PM</b>
<b>Senior Sunrise (at football field)</b>	<b>Wed., August 16</b>	<b>6:30 AM</b>
<b>First Day of School</b>	<b>Wed., August 16</b>	<b>Min. Day</b>
<b>Jungle Dance (for all students)</b>	<b>Friday, August 18</b>	<b>8 - 10:30 PM</b>
<b>Picture Day</b>	<b>Friday, August 25</b>	
<b>Back To School Night</b>	<b>Tuesday, August 29</b>	<b>6 - 8:30 PM</b>

**SCHOOL STARTS ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16th AT 8:30 A.M.**

**PLEASE NOTE: THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL WILL BE A MINIMUM DAY.**

**STUDENTS WILL BE RELEASED AT 12:50 P.M.**

**STUDENT SCHEDULES**

Students can view their schedules online on eSchools Home Access starting on Thursday, August 10. The Home Access link is a button on the main page of our website. Freshmen will receive their schedules at orientation on Tuesday, the 15th. If there is a problem with your student's schedule, "fixes" will be made within the first three days of school. Students can submit the Schedule Fix Request Form in the Counseling Department and counselors will respond to them accordingly. Keep in mind, schedules will only be "fixed" based on an error, not based on a student having changed his or her mind about taking a class. Months of effort have gone into designing the master schedule based on student requests in addition to balancing class sizes and student schedules.

Schedules will only be "fixed" based on:

- Missing a course(s) required for graduation (particularly for seniors)
- Blank/missing a class period (does not include “Early/Late” arrival for seniors)
- Student has not met a prerequisite for a course - Example: A student registered for a course, but did not meet requirements needed to take that course (i.e. registered for Spanish 2 but did not pass Spanish 1).
- Student has duplicate courses

**TO RECEIVE A SCHEDULE:**

**ALL RETURNING STUDENTS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING TURNED IN:**

Emergency Card & Mandatory Parent/Guardian Signature Form

\*Most returning students turned in the required forms in the spring

**ALL NEW STUDENTS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING TURNED IN:**

Registration Form, Emergency Card, & Mandatory Parent/Guardian Signature Form

Book fines need to be cleared. (Students owing money for lost books/fines have received a letter during the summer.) Books returned and fines paid help defray budget constraints.

**FRESHMEN/NEW STUDENTS ORIENTATION**

Welcome to the Bruin family, Class of 2021 and all new members of the Bruin family! We are looking forward to seeing all of our 9th graders and new students at Freshmen/New Students Orientation, which will be held in the quad from 6 PM – 7 PM on Tuesday, August 15, 2017. This event is strictly for students; parents, please plan to drop off and pick up! See you then!

**SENIOR INFORMATION NIGHT**

We encourage ALL seniors AND their parents to join us in the theatre on Monday, August 14th from 6-7 PM to learn about everything you’ll need to know about the senior year, including Senior Project, college readiness and application information, scholarships, the ordering of graduation items, yearbooks, athletics, Grad Night and more! It will be an information-packed hour you won’t want to miss.

**CHROMEBOOK DISTRIBUTION FOR FRESHMEN AND NEW STUDENTS**

In order for each incoming student to be issued a Chromebook (for use at school and at home throughout high school), a parent needs to read/view pertinent information about the process, expectations, and other topics. Once you have read, viewed, and discussed the information, you will sign a form acknowledging that you have received the information and the student will return this form to school (this form was included in the enrollment packet). **The Chromebooks will then be distributed to students through our library check-out process during the school day, much like textbooks are checked out. All of this is slated to happen within the first few days of school.**

**ATHLETES COMMITTED CODE NIGHT**

We are excited to continue with the alignment of *Athlete Committed* with our athletic programs at BRHS, with its research-based approach to student athlete health and well-being. All athletes, along with their parent/guardian, are required to attend the mandatory Code Night presentation, ensuring that all involved are well-informed of the Code of Conduct and are educated on critical areas such as chemical health (substance use), bullying/harassment, nutrition, sleep and training/recovery.

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT**

Let’s make this the most well-attended Back-to-School Night in BRHS history! We want to see all parents on Tuesday, August 29th from 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM (beginning in the theatre). Principal Besler will set the

stage for the school year, update you on all the new developments, and introduce new staff members, and then you will have the opportunity to get to know your students' teachers.

### **ALL-ACCESS PASS**

The All-Access Pass is now available in the Student Store for only \$65. For this amazing price, the student will receive:

- This year's themed BruiNation t-shirt
- Free entry into Fall Homecoming Dance, Winter Homecoming Dance, and Last Chance Dance
- Free entry into ALL home sporting events (with the exception of playoff games)

This is an unbelievable deal that pays for itself several times over! See Adina in the Student Store or send your Bruin to school with \$65 (cash or check) to purchase.

### **BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM**

Our district is committed to continuing to provide high-quality, nutritious breakfasts and lunches for our students, prepared from scratch in our kitchens -- this level of quality in school meals is certainly rare. We spend quite a bit more than we earn when it comes to providing these meals for our students, but see the value of maintaining this excellent level of quality. Breakfasts are \$2.00 and lunches are \$4.00.

We encourage all families to check out the School Lunch Program information on our district website: ([www.njuhsdfood.com](http://www.njuhsdfood.com)) to see if your family qualifies for free or reduced meal prices. The application is simple and can be completed online or on paper. In addition to the meal programs, you also qualify for: waiver of college application fees; free AP testing; free SAT and ACT testing; eligibility for certain scholarships; Comcast internet service (at the reduced cost of \$9.95/month). Our district benefits from students participating in this program, as it allows us to receive additional funding to support student programs for every student enrolled in the program. It's a win-win!

### **BRUIN TIME & TEACHER COLLABORATION**

A core principle of our professional learning community is that, as educators, we must work together to achieve our collective purpose of learning for all. As a means of facilitating the collaborative process, we adopted a schedule that allows time for our teachers, staff, and administrators to work together to address our goals for improved student learning. This schedule has allowed for teachers to meet regularly for scheduled collaboration within and across departments. In addition, we are continuing to modify our policies and procedures with regard to Bruin Time to provide structured study hall, remediation and enrichment opportunities for our students. Our Bruin Time program has received recognition throughout the state of California and earned us the California Gold Ribbon School award this past spring!

**Please remember that all freshmen and sophomores are scheduled for Bruin Time. Juniors and seniors are scheduled into Bruin Time/Remediation if they have a D or an F in a class.** Junior and senior students may also request to be placed in Bruin Time if they so desire. If a junior or senior student is not scheduled into Bruin Time, he/she may leave campus. We will provide study hall opportunities for those juniors and seniors who remain on campus for extracurricular activities or who must wait for the bus. Please remember that Bruin Time minutes count as instructional minutes for all students who are scheduled into Bruin Time. Please, if your student is enrolled in Bruin Time, it is imperative he/she attends.

Bruin Time will be held at the end of the school day Monday through Thursday, and the early release for collaboration days will be on Fridays when scheduled. A calendar of the early release days will be posted on our website. **Please note that the Bruin Time/early release schedule will not begin until**

**Tuesday, September 5th. The first day of school is a minimum day, and we will then follow a traditional 6 period day with release at 3:24 p.m. through Friday, Sept. 1st.**

### **BRHS WEBSITE**

We ask you to visit our website at <http://bearriver.njuhsd.com/> (Click on Information, then Policies, where you will find our Annual Parent Notification materials. Our site contains all the required annual notifications related to pertinent board policies and education codes, as well as optional information regarding programs like Indian Education, pesticide notification, the release of student directory information, and sex education. Please log on to <http://njuhsdfood.com/> for information regarding our Food Services programs, as well as the online method of adding money to your student's account. Also, please check our website for the 2017-2018 bus schedule. The bus schedule can be located under "Transportation" which is located under the "Information" tab.

### **TEACHING STUDENTS MUTUAL RESPECT FOR ONE ANOTHER**

The hazing, harassment, sexual harassment or inappropriate treatment of any student will not be tolerated. We continue to work with all students to treat each other and all people with mutual respect and consideration. As an educational community we want to work with students and parents to address this problem.

### **CLEAN CAMPUS**

Our campus is a showpiece of this community and a source of pride. We continue to emphasize to students and visitors the importance of keeping our campus clean, as it is a reflection of our values, community, and Bruin pride.

### **DRESS CODE**

The NJUHSD Board of Trustees approved dress code will be enforced. Specific details of the Dress Code can be found on the Bear River High School's website.

### **ATTENDANCE** (Administrative Regulation 5113)

A student who is absent from class three or more days, has excessive tardiness or has three incidents of truancy, receives a First Notification of Truancy or Excessive Absences letter, which we hope will encourage your student to attend on a more regular basis.

### **TRUANCY/TARDIES**

A board policy was established regarding truancy. The purpose of this policy is to provide for mandatory, effective and uniform truancy enforcement. Consequences for continued truancy can include court appearances (SAM) and the loss of a student's driver's license. Time lost due to truanancies or excessive absences must be made up.

### **PARENT ACCESS TO GRADES AND OTHER STUDENT INFORMATION**

The "Home Access" link (a button on the main page of our website) allows parents to check students' grades and attendance on an ongoing basis throughout the school year. Parents and students who do not currently have accounts for Home Access will receive this information in early fall. Stay tuned for information from teachers about [www.schoology.com](http://www.schoology.com), which provides more in-depth information about a particular class (like a website for that course).

**We can't wait to see you all soon! Go, Bruins!**