

BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

52 Institute Road
Burlington, VT 05408
www.bhs.bsdt.org

Tracy Racicot, Principal
tracicot@bsdt.org
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Upcoming Dates at BHS
Friday 1/5 Quarter 2 Ends
Monday 1/8 Quarter 3 Begins
Tuesday 1/16 Inservice—No school for students
Saturday 1/20 All State Auditions @ CVU High School
Thursday 1/25 Winter Concert 1 7pm BHS Auditorium
Thursday 2/1 Winter Concert 2 7pm BHS Auditorium

PARTICIPATE IN THE PENGUIN PLUNGE!



This year's Penguin Plunge is on Saturday, February 3!
Join BHS' team to support Unified Sports, the Special Olympics of VT and earn community service. All participants must raise \$150 dollars and have a parent/guardian sign a waiver.

To learn how to join the team, then please contact Simon Parlante (sparlante@bsdt.org), Jennifer Haselman (jhaselma@bsdt.org) or Francesca Dupuis (fdupuis@bsdt.org).

DECA CASH CALENDARS

DECA is selling Winter Cash Calendars now! Cash calendars give you up to 38 chances to win money during the end of December and month of January. They cost \$10 to buy and if you win you are guaranteed to win your money back. They make great gifts for friends, family, neighbors and more. Provided is a link to purchase them. Please support our club! Thank you.

<https://goo.gl/forms/6mRPegbvTAvteJrv1>

WINTER BALL INFO!

Mark your calendars for the upcoming BHS Winter Ball!!! This year's ball will be a Masquerade.

Saturday January 27th from 8—11pm at the Sheraton.

Tickets are \$15 and will be sold the week before the dance.



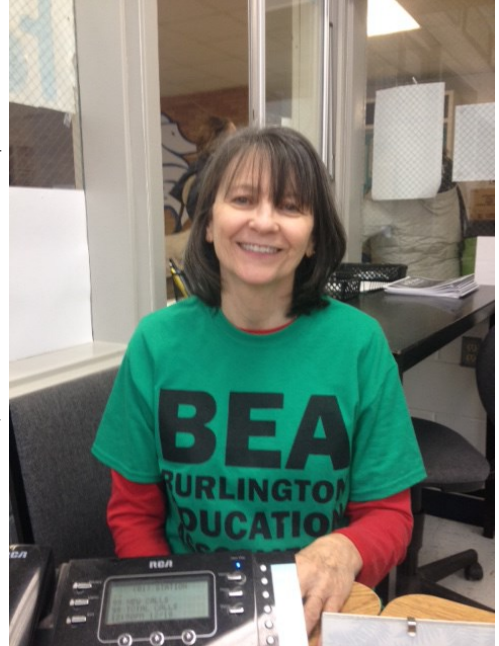
SUPPORT CENTER STAFF OF THE WEEK

MAUREEN O'SULLIVAN

Greetings, Seahorses! It has been my pleasure to work at BHS for the past five years. I continue to assist students with work completion and help in the Homework Center after school. Although I describe my work as academic in nature, it is truly about building relationships at all levels. This has been such a rewarding experience.

Prior to moving to Vermont in 2005, my husband, my son, and I lived in both Haines and Anchorage, Alaska. My husband was born and raised there so we really did have a valid reason for returning there from Florida. Talk about opposite poles! It was a great experience but it was so far away from everything and everyone that we decided to head back, and Vermont is the place we both could agree on.

In my spare time I read, read, and read! This is my favorite activity although I do walk a lot and practice Yoga - the really easy style. When I have the time, I enjoy cooking and will attempt my first crock-potting on December 24th - a bit of a fashion risk but "Chicken Fiesta" just sounds too good to pass up! I wish you all a safe and peaceful break.



WARMEST THANKS TO VERTEK CORPORATION

BHS would like to extend a warm thank you to Vertek Corporation for their donation of a teacher desk, and several chairs! These went to some very happy and thankful Seahorse students and teachers. Thank you again for your generosity!



SO PROUD OF OUR BHS STUDENTS!

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra (VSO) asked BHS Freshman, Alex Wick to compose a work of music, which the VSO's brass quintet performed this past week in four different concerts around the State (Warren 12/13, Newport 12/14, Grafton 12/16 and Manchester 12/17).

Vermont Public Radio broadcasted an interview with Alex about the VSO performances and his music composition, which can be heard at the link below. You can also hear a piece of music Alex composed in Spring 2017, which was performed at the Spring Music-COMP Opus 32 concert at the Elley Long music hall in Colchester.

<http://digital.vpr.net/post/burlington-9th-grader-blends-classical-music-and-hip-hop>



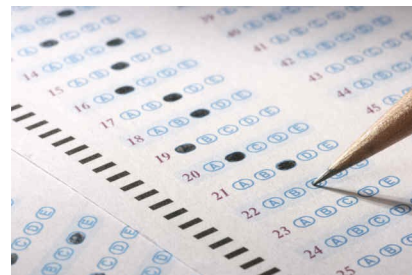
UPCOMING SAT CLASS

Kaplan Test Prep will be running an SAT Class at UVM in preparation for the March 10th SAT Test ! Class will include 2 Practice Tests and 6 three hour Classroom sessions. Seating is limited Register today, by calling [1-800-527-8378](tel:1-800-527-8378) or visiting kaptest.com/sat. Prices go up 3 weeks prior to the class start date!

Class Code: **SAIKS18211**

Schedule: Saturday and Sunday starting at 9am

First session is 1/12/18



PROUD OF OUR BHS TEACHERS TOO!

This past Saturday two of our BHS Teachers. Ms. Norris and Ms. Austin achieved their National Board Certification!

National Board Certification (NBC) is a voluntary, advanced teaching credential that goes beyond state licensure. NBC has national standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do., and the National Board Standards for Teaching are the highest standards for teaching in the country.

The National Board certifies teachers who successfully complete its rigorous process. Many of those who pursue this, work diligently for up to 3 years to achieve this certification. For NBCTs, the process is one of the best professional learning experiences of their careers.

Of all the teachers in the state of Vermont, only 159 in total have received National Board Certification!

For more information on NBC <http://www.nbpts.org/>

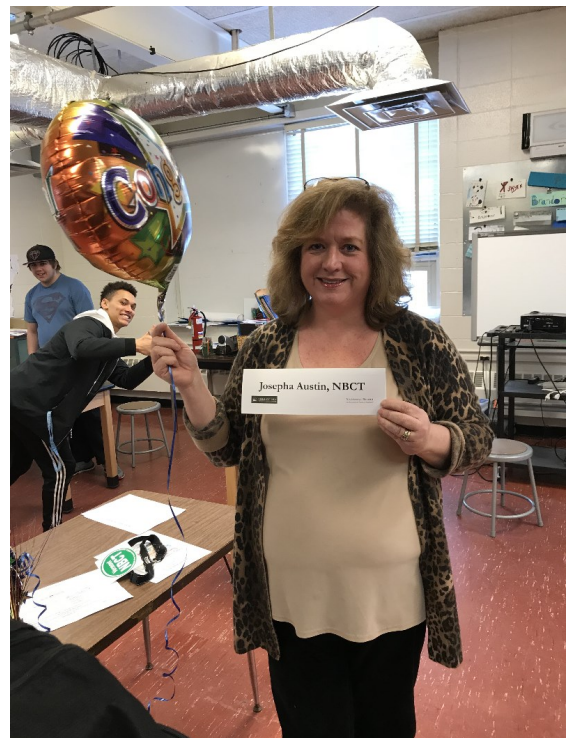
Congratulations to both Ms. Norris, and Ms. Austin on a job well done!!



Ms. Norris and Mr. Green



Ms. Austin



BHS AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES

We are almost there! Please come support and enjoy the Burlingtones at their annual Winter Concert this Thursday Dec. 21st at Main Street Landing in Burlington. The fun begins at 7pm, so bring you friends and family! This week The BHS Dance Team had their winter celebration at Junior's Italian. They greeted customers with Christmas Carols and danced while they waited for their table! If you have any questions or ideas for after school programming at BHS please email FSalese@bsdvt.org. Happy Holidays!!!

TEACHER FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Through Donorschoose.org, Ms. Austin fundraised \$1200 of science equipment for her classroom. Ms. Evans, EL teacher collaborated with her to put the fundraiser together. The materials include nets for catching and studying Macroinvertebrates (water health indicators), sample jars, a pH kit, and a "living machine" indoor stream for Ms. Austin's classroom. GREAT JOB!!!



CONGRATS BHS SENIORS & PARENTS!

Congratulations BHS Seniors and Parents:

We have some Early acceptances to some great universities and colleges such as Brown Univ., American Univ., Wesleyan Univ, Univ of Denver, Univ of Chicago, Babson College, Temple Univ, Tulane Univ, Georgetown Univ, McGill Univ, Umass Amherst, Berklee College of Music, Champlain College and 42 students to the University of Vermont!!

Please have your son/daughter notify guidance of their acceptances, so we can expand this list of schools.

REMINDERS FROM GUIDANCE

- ⇒ Reminder: January 1st and January 15th Deadlines
- ⇒ January 24th is 8th Grade Info Night
- ⇒ January 16th is the Gap Year fair
usagyf2018burlington.eventbrite.com



BURLINGTON CITY AND LAKE SEMESTER

Next fall, BHS will be launching a new immersive, interdisciplinary program, the *Burlington City and Lake Semester*. Taught by Social Studies teacher, Dov Stucker, and English teacher, Peter McConville, the program will be located off campus where students will work with a variety of community partners on real world issues facing the city.

During the program, students will spend their entire Blue Days downtown and their White Days at BHS. The program schedule and credits will cover 5 out of students' 8 courses. Participants can enroll in up to three additional year long courses.

The program will explore a number of local issues with a special focus on physical and human geography, community and personal identity, civic engagement, social justice, and sustainable development. This is a unique opportunity for students who are ready to explore their city, collaborate with adult professionals, and grapple with real-world issues. The program is open to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors.

To learn more, contact:

Dov Stucker at dstucker@bsdvt.org or Peter McConville at pmcconvi@bsdvt.org.

Don't hesitate to be in touch with any questions. We'd love to share more about this innovative learning opportunity!

To learn a bit more about the program, click [HERE](#).



INFORMATION ABOUT SBAC TESTS AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS



What are SBAC tests? Why do we do it? Who is taking it?

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) is a standardized test consortium. They create Common Core State Standards-aligned tests. These tests are used in several states. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a reauthorization of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act which established the federal government's expanded role in public education. ESSA requires all students to be tested in math and English language arts in grades 3-8 and one time in high school. For the past three years, in 3rd-8th grades and again in 11th grade, students in Vermont have taken the Smarter Balanced assessments for math and English language arts. This year students in 9th grade will take the SBAC tests. Students in 11th grade will not take the SBAC tests. The AOE has released an [FAQ on change from grade 11 to 9](#) to assist in answering questions. Last year we administered the SBAC in the first two weeks of April and we anticipate the same or similar time frame this year.

What other "state required" assessments will students take at BHS?

A new science test that will be fully aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) will be field-tested in May 2018 for all school in the state. The NGSS-aligned assessment will be administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 11. This represents a change from practice in 2016-17 when the NECAP assessment was administered to grades 4, 8, and 11. The AOE has released an [FAQ on the NGSS testing](#) to assist in answering questions. This test will be administered to students in grade 11 in May at BHS.





Meet Aaron Fogg!

Position: Burlington High School Chemistry Teacher

Fun fact: I like to play a lot of video games.

Schools attended: Mason High School (MI), Michigan Technological University

Interests: Live music, brewing, golf, and skiing

Favorite quote: "I been swimming in raw sewage.....I love it!"

Influences/mentors: My parents, my high school Chemistry Teacher Mrs. Ware, and my childhood Art Instructor, Vesta.



**LOOK BEYOND THE
CLASSROOM.**



GapMatcher

Visit gapmatcher.com to find out which programs might be a good fit for you!

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BURLINGTON
January 16, 2018

Burlington High School

52 Institute Road

Burlington, VT 05408

Speaker: 6-6:45 PM | Fair: 6:45-8:30 PM

Pre-register for free at usagapyearfairs.org/fairs



219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641 (p) 802-479-1030 | (f) 802-479-1835

High School Smarter Balanced Assessment in 9th Grade: FAQ

For the past three years, in 3rd-8th grades and again in 11th grade, students in Vermont have taken the Smarter Balanced assessments for math and English language arts, sometimes referred to as SBACs. Federal law, Every Student Succeeds Act, requires all students to be tested in math and English language arts in 3rd-8th grades and one time in high school.

Starting this school year, we will assess students in 9th grade instead of 11th. There will be no changes to Smarter Balanced assessments at other grades.

Below you will find answers to many of the questions teachers, administrators, students, and parents have asked about this change.

Why is Vermont changing its high school assessment from 11th grade to 9th grade?

There are three main reasons for this change. First, 11th grade is already a very heavily tested academic year. In addition to a standardized science assessment taken by all students, many 11th graders are also taking the PSAT, PACT, SAT, and ACT assessments. Many more are taking one or more Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) assessments. Changing the Smarter Balanced high school assessment grade from 11th-9th will relieve some of this burden.

Second, by assessing in 9th grade, rather than in 10th or 12th grades, we will be able to track year-to-year student growth over seven consecutive years and include the results as part of the assessment system at the high school level. This would not be possible if the assessment occurred in 10th or 12th grades as the assessments will not be in consecutive academic years.

Finally, by giving the assessment at the beginning of the high school years, rather than near the end, the test results will help schools identify students who will need intervention and support to become career and college ready upon graduation.

When will this move happen?

The move to 9th grade will occur this school year. In the spring 2018 testing window, 9th graders will take the Smarter Balanced assessments and 11th graders will not.

Will the 9th grade Smarter Balanced Assessment be identical to the test currently taken in 11th grade?

It will be similar, but not identical. The format will be the same. It is a computer adaptive test aligned with the Common Core State Standards; however, the questions themselves are mostly different. Most of the test questions that will be used were field-tested with 9th grade students. The remainder have been judged by content experts to be appropriate for 9th grade students. The cut scores used to determine if students are meeting achievement standards are also being set specifically for 9th grade. To be clear, we are not moving the 11th grade test items to 9th grade. Rather, we are developing new Smarter Balanced assessments appropriate for 9th grade students.

Does this mean that the only assessment of student performance in high school is in 9th grade?

No. Further career and college ready indicators are included under the new state accountability model. By the time a student graduates from high school, s/he is expected to have a proficient score on **one** of a number of potential measures, including SAT, AP, dual enrollment, or an industry recognized certificate. Please follow this [link](#) for a full list of approved measures.

What should we do to prepare for the change?

The administration of the Smarter Balanced assessments will be identical to previous years, with the exception of the grade level taking the assessment. Please consider any changes to class schedules required to ensure space is available for 9th graders to take the test, that a sufficient number of computers are available, and that staff are trained in the proper administration of the test. However, the best way to prepare for the assessments is to align curriculum and instruction to the Common Core State Standards.

Who should I contact with my questions about this change?

- For information about assessment development and administration, contact Michael Hock, Director of Education Assessment, at michael.hock@vermont.gov.



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FAQ: Vermont's New NGSS-Aligned Science Assessment

The Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) is partnering with Rhode Island to develop a new statewide science assessment for state and federal accountability purposes. This FAQ provides introductory information about the assessment. Additional details around the implementation of this assessment will be determined when the assessment contract has been finalized and signed. At that time, this document will be revised accordingly and reissued.

Why is Vermont introducing a new Science assessment into the state?

Vermont's new science assessment will be fully aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the academic content standards that Vermont adopted in 2013. The State's previous science assessment, New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP), was not aligned with NGSS. A new, NGSS-aligned Science assessment will allow students to better represent their proficiency against the state's current expectations for learning.

Where is the assessment in the development process?

The AOE has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify our partner in this work, and is in the process of negotiating a contract with a vendor. The NGSS-aligned assessment will be field-tested in May 2018 to ensure it meets standards of technical quality.

What is the likely format of the NGSS-aligned assessment?

We intend for this test to be administered via computer, and to make use of innovative item clusters that will make it possible to measure the full breadth of the NGSS standards. The assessment will include reports to parents and schools that clearly articulate student performance. Additionally, the assessment will include accommodations and accessibility features to provide access for a broad range of diverse student needs in Vermont.

What grade levels will be assessed?

The NGSS-aligned assessment will be administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 11. This represents a minor change from practice in 2016-17, when the NECAP assessment was administered to grades 4, 8, and 11.

What will the testing window be for the NGSS-aligned assessment?

The NGSS-aligned science assessment will take place during the last three weeks of May 2018.

How long will it take to administer the NGSS-aligned assessment?

While still in development, the RFP stipulates that the NGSS-aligned assessment can be completed during two one-hour sessions.

When will the NGSS-aligned assessment factor into school accountability determinations?

In 2017-18, the assessment will be introduced into the state, and it is the AOE's intention to count the assessment for up to 2% of a school's final accountability determination. Beginning in

2018-19, the assessment will count for up to 12.5% of a school's determination, depending on the grades that the school serves and the size of its English learner population.

What should schools be doing now to prepare for the new science assessment?

The best way for schools to prepare for the new assessment is to ensure that local curriculum and instruction are fully aligned with NGSS and that students have appropriate learning opportunities to experience the full breadth of NGSS.

Where and when will assessment updates be released?

Updates will be posted to the AOE website, announced through the AOE's Weekly Field Memo ([which you can sign up to receive electronically](#)), and educator listservs, and provided through the AOE's assessment newsletter.

Who should I contact with my questions about this assessment?

- For information about the assessment's connection to content standards and instructional practice, contact Margaret Carrera-Bly, Science Content Specialist, at margaret.carrera-bly@vermont.gov.
- For information about assessment development and administration, contact Gabriel McGann, Statewide Assessment Coordinator, at gabriel.mcgann@vermont.gov.

BUY YOUR BASKETBALL AND HOCKEY
SPORTS SIGN TODAY!!

Have you seen the signs, like the one below, popping up all over town?



In an attempt to get more people to join in the great events that take place at BHS, we have created a Seahorse sign for different sports/activities that are taking place at the high school.

When you see a sign up you know that one of the BHS teams is playing that day.

- Go to the BHS website at www.bhs.bsdt.org,
- Click on the top bar that says athletics,
- and you'll know who, where and when they are playing.
- come see a great game and support our student/athletes!!

A big thank you to the Seahorse Pride Committee (formerly Boosters) who support this effort.

Signs are on sale for only \$5.

If you're interested in owning one and taking part in Seahorse Pride,

please contact Tammy Kuypers at Kuypers5@yahoo.com

Get Your BASKETBALL and/or HOCKEY One Today!!!

Then You'll be Ready For The First Game!

***If you have a team in mind that you would like to create signs for,
please email me at the above email address! The more teams we can represent the better!! ***

GO SEAHORSES!!

SEAHORSEPRIDE

BHS BOOSTERS is now BHS SEAHORSEPRIDE

SEAHORSEPRIDE

BHS Parent Volunteer Organization Supporting:
BHS Students in Arts, Academics and Athletics

All Are Welcome To Volunteer in Any Way!

Help with School Support: Arts & Academics

Cnt: Clare Wool

email: clarewool@me.com

Help with Music and Choral Dept.

Cnt: Suzanne Garrity

email: suzannemgarrity@gmail.com

Help with Sponsorship/Advertising

Cnt: Chris Hood

email: chood@cssu.org

Help with Winter Sports Concessions

Cnt: Jennifer Woods

email: jenniferwoods173@gmail.com

Help with Athletic Team Yard Signs

Tammy Kuypers

contact: kuypers5@yahoo.com