

# BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

52 Institute Road  
Burlington, VT 05408  
[www.bhs.bsdt.org](http://www.bhs.bsdt.org)

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Upcoming Dates at BHS  
Wednesday 3/21 BHS Talent Show  
6:30PM  
Thursday 3/22 Fine Arts Night  
5:30PM  
Friday 3/23 Student Early Release at  
noon  
Thursday 4/5 Graduation Info Night  
6:00PM

## A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL RACICOT

Early next week, we will practice a lockdown drill. We are required to practice five fire drills and five lockdown drills each school year. Practicing lockdown drills help us to protect students from danger or threats located outside or inside the buildings. We coordinate our lockdown drills with the Burlington Police Department.

A lockdown is used to protect students from danger inside their school. These often require teachers to lock doors, turn out lights, and instruct students to hide in silence. Well-trained teachers can help students practice the process without invoking fear. The drills are a meaningful part of the training for all.

Both fire drills and lockdown drills must be made with care, and the drills to practice each skill should be routine, but not common. For safety reasons we will not publish dates and times of drills in advance. We will announce that the lockdown drill is a drill when we call the lockdown early next week.

## ATTENTION PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF 9TH GRADERS

On Wednesday, March 21st during Choice Time, all 9th Graders will be participating in a practice session for the SBAC English/Language Arts and Mathematics Exams. 9th Graders that morning will be reporting first to the Auditorium @ 8:05 AM for an introduction to the exam. From there they will be asked to report to the classroom in which they will be taking the SBACs where they will meet the teachers that they will be working with on April 3rd, 4th, 10th, and 11th. Those teachers will be helping them sign on to the SBAC website as well as helping them answer sample questions from the practice test. Please be sure that your student brings their fully charged Chromebook to this practice session.

Thank you very much for your help in making sure that 9th graders come to the SBAC Practice Session on Wednesday, March 21st @ 8:05 with their charged Chromebooks!

## **SPRING PARENT/GUARDIAN/TEACHER CONFERENCE REMINDER**

Spring parent/guardian/teacher conferences are approaching soon at BHS. All students will have a half day Friday, March 23 (noon release).

Conferences are by invite or by request. Times that teachers will be available will vary but will fall between these dates and times:

Thursday, March 22 from 5-7:30PM

Friday, March 23 from 12-2:30PM

Wednesday, March 28 from 7:45-8:45 and from 3:20-4:20 PM.

If you are not contacted by a teacher by Monday, March, 19 and would like to request a conference time, please call us at 864-8411 and we will be pleased to get you in touch with teachers.

### **STUDENT SCHEDULE for PARENT/GUARDIAN/TEACHER CONFERENCE**



Friday March 23, 2018

WHITE DAY

Schedule for students (early release):

**Block 4 8:05-9AM**

**Block 1 9:05-10AM**

**Block 2 10:05-11AM**

**Block 3 11:05-12PM**

# spectrum's sleep out 2018

## Who?

- Students (grades 9-12), BHS teachers & parents/guardians

## What?

- BHS' fourth annual **Student Sleep Out** for Spectrum.
- The Sleep Out raises awareness of youth homelessness.
- Participating students must raise money for this cause.
- Permission slips are due by Friday, March 16.

## Where?

- Buck Hard Field

## When?

- Friday, March 30 at 7pm until Saturday, March 31 at 7am

## Why?

- Students not only earn community service, but they also participate in BHS' most successful community outreach event.

## How?

- Contact Ms. Dupuis ([fdupuis@bsdvt.org](mailto:fdupuis@bsdvt.org)) for more information about how to participate.
- Ms. Dupuis welcomes parents/guardians as chaperones!

## BHS AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Let it snow! Everyone be sure to check their email and submit to the BHS S.T.E.M. Afterschool survey! We will be beginning this program soon. Also, if you have interest in playing afterschool Ultimate Frisbee this year, please email Mr. Salese at: [Fsalese@bsdvt.org](mailto:Fsalese@bsdvt.org).



## HELP THE SCHOLARS BOWL TEAM

The Burlington High School Scholars' Bowl team has qualified for the national tournament in Atlanta in May and is hoping to be able to represent Vermont against the best teams in the country.

We're working hard to raise money, but bake sales will only get us so far, so we hope you will consider chipping in to help these excellent students reach their goal. Donations of any size would be greatly appreciated.

Scholars' Bowl is a question-and-answer academic competition for teams of students. BHS has one of the top teams in Northern New England and has finished in the top four of every competition it has entered this season. Here is a link to our GoFundMe page <https://www.gofundme.com/bhs-scholars-bowl-trip-to-nationals>

## FINE ARTS NIGHT

BHS will be hosting a Fine Arts Night on Thursday, March 22, 2018 from 5:30-7:30pm. Student work and performances of all our fine art offerings will be represented on this evening.



## BHS TALENT SHOW

Student Planning Committee, the same folks who bring you the awesome dances and pep rallies, is hosting 198th Annual BHS Talent Show Wednesday, March 21st in the BHS auditorium from 6:30-8:30.

We want you in the spotlight! If you would like to be in the Talent Show, contact Mr. Williams by Monday, 12th. All are welcome.





# CONGRATULATIONS QUINCY MASSEY-BIERMAN!

Quincy Massey-Bierman, BHS 9th grader, qualified for the Nordic event at the 2018 U.S. Ski and Snowboard Cross Country Junior National Championships, held in Soldier Hollow, Utah.

Quincy and five other U16 athletes, including 3 from Vermont, represented the New England region at the Junior Nationals.

Quincy was the top New England skier at Nationals and one of only two girls in her age group to return home with a top-10 finish in every event over the 4 day Championships.

## Results:

7<sup>th</sup> in the 5 km classic style interval start race.

6<sup>th</sup> in the 1.3 km skate sprint race 4 qualifying races over the course of the day.

10<sup>th</sup> in the 5 km mass start skate race.

Anchor for the New England team in the 3x3.3Km relay with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish.

New England returned home for the fifth year in a row with the best team score, allowing them to retain position of the coveted Alaska Cup.

Quincy's medal winning performances at Nationals follow her second and third place finishes at Vermont High School State Nordic skiing Championships at Rikert and Craftsbury on February 22 and 26. Next weekend, she'll be racing for the Vermont team at the Eastern High School Championships in Rumford, Maine.

<https://usskiandsnowboard.org/events/2018-junior-national-cross-country-championships>

Videos of every race are available at the bottom of that web page.



## CONGRATULATIONS ALIYAH BURR!

Our school champion (her third year in a row) Aliyah Burr (junior) represented BHS this past Monday morning at the Barre Opera House at the Vermont Poetry Out Loud semi-finals.

She recited the following poems from memory:

"The Lamb" by Linda Gregg

"The Negro Speaks of Rivers" by Langston Hughes

"In the Desert" by Stephen Crane

We received word that Aliyah has advanced to the finals!! Kudos Aliyah!! Here is some basic information about the event with some links. All are welcome at the event.

RSVP using the link below; a single person can reserve up to ten tickets.

Date: Thursday, March 15

Student Orientation Begins: 4:00 pm

Doors Open to Public: 4:30 pm

Event Begins: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Location: [Elley-Long Music Center](#), Colchester, Vt.

Tickets: The event is free. Tickets may be reserved on the [Vermont PBS website](#)





## BHS UNIFIED BASKETBALL SEASON OPENER!!

BHS Unified Basketball Team will be having their Season Opener Game Tuesday March 20th. This will be a home game here at BHS against CVU! Come on out and cheer on our BHS Unified Team! A complete season schedule can be found on the next page.  
**GO SEAHORSES!!!!**



## SEAHORSES IN NEW YORK CITY THIS WEEK

Students from the Register (school newspaper) and Oread (yearbook) are attending the Columbia Scholastic Press Association conference in NYC this week.



# UNIFIED BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Northern Unified Basketball Schedule  
Championship target date: 5/10/18  
Practice can begin 2/19/18, games begin 3/19/18

Teams: Bellcate, Colchester, MMU, Montpelier, Milton, CVU, Burlington,  
BFA St. Albans

Game time will be 3:30, except for Burlington and MMU which will start at  
3:45

**Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

Bellcate @ Colchester  
CVU @ Burlington

**Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**

BFA @ MMU

**Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

CVU @ BFA  
Montpelier @ Colchester

**Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**

Burlington @ BFA  
Milton @ MMU  
Bellcate @ Montpelier

**Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

Bellcate @ Milton  
Montpelier @ Burlington  
Colchester @ CVU

**Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

MMU @ Montpelier

**Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

BFA @ Montpelier  
Colchester @ Burlington

**Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

Burlington @ MMU

**Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Colchester @ Milton

**Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Bellcate @ BFA

**Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**

MMU @ Bellcate  
Montpelier @ Milton

**Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Milton @ CVU

**Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

BFA @ Colchester  
Burlington @ Milton  
CVU @ Montpelier

**Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

Burlington @ Bellcate  
Milton @ BFA  
MMU @ CVU

**Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

MMU @ Colchester



## WHAT'S NEW WITH THE NEUROSCIENCE CLUB



The Neuroscience Club, a collaboration between BHS and BTC students, meets regularly on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 8am. Vile-na Lee, BHS junior, was instrumental in getting this club off the ground this fall. She approached Burlington Tech Center Health Science Program staff with the concept of forming the club. Wendy King, BTC Health Sciences Academy Instructor, is the faculty advisor for the club. Lisa Bernardin, Coordinator of the VT Brain Bee, visited the Club meeting at BTC on December 6th. UVM Neuroscience undergraduate students assist with presentations and reinforcing key concepts.

Students performed well in the VT Brain Bee competition and day of exploration held on Saturday, February 10 at UVM. Four of this year's Neuroscience Club members competed and also participated in the Brain Bee Boot Camp (a preparatory program) which was held the preceding Saturday.

## CHAMPLAIN CAFÉ LUCK OF THE IRISH MENU

Warm up this snowy week with a traditional Irish meal on Friday. Champlain Cafe will be taking reservations until tomorrow, Thursday, at 10am. If this meal would work better for dinner, they offer pick-up times after school as well.

For menu information or to make a reservation, please visit the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf37S9oERV8N86sQJ\\_bnmqzLYD7iC0ga71fpihmmxu7guMdgw/viewform?c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf37S9oERV8N86sQJ_bnmqzLYD7iC0ga71fpihmmxu7guMdgw/viewform?c=0&w=1)



## FROM THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

- ♦ Parents/ Guardians of Students Graduating in the Class of 2018! Wow! Graduation is right around the corner and with the 2017-2018 school year coming to an end I am sure you have lots of questions about what is going on. Please come join us on April 5, 2018 at 6:00pm for an informational meeting and a chance to ask us all the questions you need to know. Jostens, who will be our cap and gown vendor this year will also be at the meeting to answer any questions you might have for them. We have created the form below for parents to fill out with questions before the event so that we can use our time efficiently and effectively at the meeting. Thank you so much and we look forward to seeing you there! <https://goo.gl/forms/VV5EwPEIzMrw4V883>
- ♦ Parents and high school students -- don't miss out! VSAC's free college & career planning events are coming up soon, with the first one this Saturday, March 17 at Saint Michael's College in Colchester. Students and parents can choose from more than 15 workshops covering the entire college process, including creating a college list that fits your student's needs *and* your family's finances, how to apply, strategies for taking SATs and ACTs, writing an application essay that stands out, college costs and financial aid, scholarships, and more. Plus -- *new this year* – pathways to skilled trades, apprenticeships, internships, and certificate programs that don't require a formal degree.  
Details: [www.vsac.org/fpf](http://www.vsac.org/fpf). *Can't make that date?* Choose one of the other two locations: March 24 at NVU-Johnson or April 7 at Castleton University.  
Questions? E-mail events@[vsac.org](http://www.vsac.org) or call us at [888-943-7301](tel:888-943-7301).
- ♦ Available for 9th-11th graders! Are you looking for something amazing for your son/daughter to do this summer? Have them consider being part of the Governor's Institutes of Vermont (GIV), an incredibly fun immersive learning experience just for Vermont high schoolers. They will choose their topic, meet students from all over the state who share that interest, gain skills and get to practice what college-level study on a college campus is like. Topics include arts, engineering, information technology & digital media, entrepreneurship, writing, science, astronomy, mathematical sciences, current issues and youth activism, and more. GIV promises to be financially accessible for all students.  
Visit [www.giv.org](http://www.giv.org) to learn more and apply now.
- ♦ VTVLC is offering scholarships for students to attend the 2018 Online and Blended Learning Conference at the Stoweflake on March 16th. With specific student strands, the conference not only provides sessions for students, but also a discussion session to provide students the opportunity to voice their opinions! There is still 9 scholarships! Please have your students register today at: <http://neoti.vtvlc.org/conferences/>  
Student strands include:  
Student/Parent Mixer and discussion session (Hannah Farnum)  
Cell Phones & Your Brain (Terri Vest)  
Blended Learning Adventures (Jane Mekelsen)  
The Nitty Gritty of Vermont's Dual Enrollment Program (Jess DeCarolis - AOE)

## **ED EVERT'S ACTIVIST CELEBRATION**

Please join the Peace & Justice Center (PJC) and our friends as we celebrate a new generation of movers and shakers. This year the PJC will be awarding Isaiah Hines and Muslim Girls Making Change with the Ed Everts Social Justice Activist Award.

Thursday, March 15, 5:30-9pm

ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St, Burlington

5:30 Doors open, cash bar, and auction

6:00 Chili dinner served

7:00 Award Ceremony and performance by Muslim Girls Making Change

8:00 Dance Party with DJ Brunch and Crystal Jonez

Tickets are available online ([pjcv.org](http://pjcv.org)) and at the Peace & Justice Center (60 Lake Street, Burlington). This is free for high school students, and \$25 for the general public. No one turned away for lack of funds. <https://www.facebook.com/events/349838698830580/>

### **About The Recipients:**

Muslim Girls Making Change is an ensemble of four unique high school students with a love of poetry. They are [Kiran Waqar](#), [Hawa Adam](#), [Lena Ginawi](#), and [Balkisa Abdikadir](#)- all really close friends and seniors at Burlington and South Burlington High Schools. Since 2016, these young women have been using slam poetry to bring about discussions of racism, sexism, Islamophobia, among other topics that are close to home. They have competed at international levels, won numerous awards, and have helped lead several local and nation wide initiatives. Muslim Girls Making Change were also included in the Huffington Post's list of 17 Muslim American Women Who Made America Great in 2016. The following year they were awarded by Rights and Democracy VT with Humanitarian Awards for their work fighting for social justice. Kiran, Hawa, Lina, and Balkisa continue to inspire groups of all ages across the state of Vermont as they organize locally and globally.

Isaiah Hines is a recent graduate of South Burlington High School (SBHS). While attending South Burlington High, he was a student representative to the South Burlington School Board. He also helped create the Student Diversity Union which seeks to bring students of different backgrounds together to challenge racism and prejudice. Most notably, Hines is known for helping lead a campaign that influenced the school to rid itself of the nickname Rebels. A name that was tied to a history of racism and was no longer befitting for the school. In 2017, Hines was named Vermonter of the Year by the Burlington Free Press and received the David Goldberg Child and Youth Advocacy Award from Voices for Vermont's Children for his efforts in combating racism. South Burlington High School has since taken on a new name, and Hines a new school. He is currently in his first year at Columbia University.



GET  
YOUR  
ACT  
TOGETHER




**BHS**  
**Talent**  
**SHOW**



MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> / WED  
6:30-8:30

BHS AUDITORIUM



peace  justice center

research • policy • action

# SOCIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

Are you concerned with the  
direction that our country is headed?  
Are you looking for a way  
to get involved in social justice work but  
unsure of where to start?  
Come learn about groups working in Vermont  
that need more people power!

**New this year:** Conversations on the  
Ethnic History of Burlington,  
Understanding Privilege, the Value of  
Senior Volunteers, and more!

Saturday, April 14, 8:30-3:00 at  
Burlington High School

\$20 general public

\$10 under 25

Free for High School Students

No one will be turned away for lack of funds

Lunch is included!

Visit [pjcv.org/events](http://pjcv.org/events) to register  
or email [program@pjcv.org](mailto:program@pjcv.org)

Sponsored by Burlington High School, Chittenden County RPC, UVM Medical Center UVM Dept of Human Resources,  
Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, City Market, Myers Bagels, Love Local Catering, and City of Burlington CEDO office

**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.bsdvt.org](http://www.bhs.bsdvt.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](mailto: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!!**





## **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!**

Email us, let us know how you would like to help out BHS:  
[seahorsepride@gmail.com](mailto:seahorsepride@gmail.com)

**Help with School Support: Arts & Academics**

Cnt: Clare Wool

email: [clarewool@me.com](mailto:clarewool@me.com)

**Help with Music and Choral Dept.**

Cnt: Suzanne Garrity

email: [suzannemgarrity@gmail.com](mailto:suzannemgarrity@gmail.com)

**Help with Sponsorship/Advertising**

Cnt: Chris Hood

email: [chood@cssu.org](mailto:chood@cssu.org)

**Help with Winter Sports Concessions**

Cnt: Jennifer Woods

email: [jenniferwoods173@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferwoods173@gmail.com)

**Help with Athletic Team Yard Signs**

Tammy Kuypers

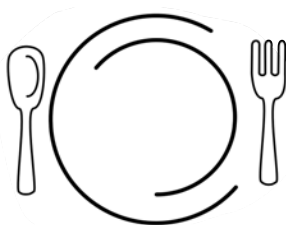
contact: [kuypers5@yahoo.com](mailto:kuypers5@yahoo.com)

# Immigration Rights Information Session

Questions about how the changes in immigration laws and policies will impact immigrants and refugees in Vermont?



Representatives from the ACLU, the AALV, Senator Patrick Leahy's Office, Senator Sanders' Office, Representative Welch's Office, and Vermont Attorney General's office will be there to answer your questions.



A FREE **Community Dinner** sponsored by the  
BHS International Club and the BSD EL Department right after

**Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

**5:30 PM-7:00 PM**

**Burlington High School Cafeteria**

**52 Institute Rd, Burlington, VT**

**Interpreters: Arabic, Somali, Maay Maay, Nepali, Karen, French, and Swahili**

**This event is meant to serve as an information session about the practical effects of the  
Executive Orders and Federal Court rulings on recent immigrants**

*Sponsored by Vermont Legal Aid and the Burlington School District*

Please join **ParentiN**  
BURLINGTON  
for an evening with  
**Michael Nerney**

# Risky Business

Why Adolescents Love Risk-Taking,  
and How We Can Help Manage It

**Wednesday, March 28th**  
**from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

**All are welcome to attend this free  
event at Hunt Middle School**

Childcare available (upon request): [emily@Burlingtonpartnership.org](mailto:emily@Burlingtonpartnership.org)

Research on the adolescent brain clearly demonstrates that teens perceive and process risk assessment in ways that are remarkably unlike adults. Mr. Nerney will offer new ways to think about and address adolescent risk reduction.

Visit: [ParentINburlington.org](http://ParentINburlington.org) or [Facebook/parentinburlington](https://Facebook/parentinburlington)



# peace justice center

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Ed Everts Social Justice Activist Award Celebration

Honoring Isaiah Hines  
and Muslim Girls Making Change



*Students of Color Speakout Mural, PSU.*

**Chili buffet, cash bar,  
silent auction, and dance party  
with DJ Brunch and  
Crystal Jonez.**

**Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
5:30-9:00 pm  
ECHO Center  
1 College St, Burlington, VT**

Reserve your tickets NOW at [pjcv.org](http://pjcv.org) or purchase in store.  
Suggested donation \$25, free entry for high school students.  
For more info email [rachel@pjcv.org](mailto:rachel@pjcv.org).







# Proficiency-Based Learning at Burlington High School

## What is Proficiency-Based Learning?

Proficiency-based learning is a system that provides more accurate, consistent, and meaningful information about student progress than traditional learning systems. Other names of this system include: standards-based, mastery-based, and competency-based learning. In a fully PBL system students are assessed on their understanding of the content and skills covered in a particular class. Most of the grade is based on demonstration of knowledge of specific learning targets or proficiencies, therefore a student's grade is a very accurate representation of what a student knows and can do.

The goal of a proficiency based system is to provide an accurate portrayal of student learning and to encourage mastery of content and skills through plenty of practice and ample feedback. There is an emphasis on growth, and thus students are provided remediation supports and opportunities for reassessment to show a higher level of understanding.



## Grading / Reporting System



Teachers use Canvas and PowerSchool to communicate progress. Canvas is the learning management system and allows teachers and students to communicate in an online classroom. PowerSchool is used to communicate grades four times throughout the year. The District is working on creating the Proficiency-Based reporting system. Until then, teachers are reporting and calculating traditional grades. Calculation methods will continue to vary by course. **Expect to see an invitation for parent/guardian input in the coming weeks!**

## What words are used to describe my child's progress toward a learning standard or course proficiency?

**Exceeding:** the student demonstrates deep understanding of the standard by applying and adapting to authentic, atypical, more complex, or unpredictable situations.

**Proficient:** the student independently demonstrates competence in the standard. They have sufficiently demonstrated their understanding.



**Approaching:** the student demonstrates basic understanding of the standard either inconsistently, only with supports, or incompletely. More targeted practice is required.

**Beginning:** the student does not yet demonstrate understanding or demonstrates a limited understanding of the standard. Serious remediation is necessary.

**Insufficient evidence:** the student has not provided enough evidence to accurately measure achievement of the standard.

**Not Yet Assessed:** Though students might be working on a skill, they may not be ready for assessment of that skill yet. This lets family and students know that they will be expected to learn the skill or content eventually.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Are grades going away?** No. Grades will continue to be used at Burlington High School for the foreseeable future. How those grades are reported to students and families will change gradually.



**Will the school still compute a grade point average (GPA)?**

Yes. Proficiency-Based Learning is a change in how the school communicates about learning. It is still possible to compute a GPA and BHS will continue to do so.

**Why isn't every teacher doing proficiency based learning exactly the same way?**

Teachers have never computed grades in exactly the same way. Neither have they had similar policies in classroom routines or policies. Faculty are currently discussing ways in which they might standardize some aspects of their routines and practices in order to simplify the experience for parents and students.

**Will competitive colleges accept a Proficiency-Based diploma?** Yes. Colleges have been accepting proficiency-based diplomas for a long time. Many, including Harvard and MIT, have publicly stated their support for proficiency-based diplomas. For information on PBL and colleges, see these resources:

[Proficiency-Based Learning Beneficial for Students](#), Rebecca Holcombe, Vt. Secretary of Education

[How Do Colleges View Proficiency-Based Transcripts?](#), New England Secondary School Consortium

**How does a student earn credit in a Proficiency-Based course?** Teachers are figuring out the school wide answer to this question right now. For 2017-2018, students must earn a 60% or higher.



Scan here for a  
short video  
PBL at BHS



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Formative Assessment:** Refers to a wide variety of methods that teachers use to conduct evaluations of student comprehension, learning needs, and academic progress during a lesson, unit, or course. Generally these are small, short assessments done during the learning process to check for understanding, give feedback, and make adjustments to the learning process.

**Course Proficiency:** A skill or essential knowledge which students must consistently demonstrate by the end of the year in order to earn “credit” for the course. These are the course standards. Students have as many attempts as they need to meet the proficiency. Ideally, these should connect to the Content-Area Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements or the Graduate Expectations.

**Learning Target:** These are the “sub-skills” or “stepping stones” to achieving a course proficiency. Instruction is provided on each learning target. Learning targets are assessed in both formative and summative assessments.

**Practice:** Work that is key to student learning and the instructional process. This work allows for mistakes and encourages students to try new skills. It is generally not used in the overall evaluation of a student’s achievement.

**Relearning:** Extra practice and support are provided when students do not meet proficiency on a course proficiency assessment. This is sometimes provided in class, sometimes asks students to complete work on their own, and is often provided during callback (M-Th, 3:00-3:30) after school.

**Summative Assessment:** Used to evaluate student learning, skill acquisition, and academic achievement. Usually at the end of a defined instructional period and used to determine a student’s level of proficiency.