

A View from the Principal's Office

Newsletter from the Principal
ISSUE 01 January 2012



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A Greeting from the Principal

This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it! Psalm 118:24

This is a Psalm phrase I reflect on every day as I serve as Principal at Bourgade Catholic High School. It has taken me a semester to find my stride, but I am so pleased to finally be able to begin a newsletter I intend to publish regularly. So, what do we have to "be glad and rejoice in" at BCHS? We have a warm and welcoming community that was described last week by Dr. Patrick Haggarty, the Superintendent of Montana's Catholic Schools after his mid-term accreditation visit to our school. Dr. Haggarty, wrote "The school, its students, and the school community are to be commended for creating and maintaining an amazingly wonderful Catholic culture that permeates the campus from the entry level student to the most experienced employee. It is, without a doubt, a Catholic school, where the dignity of the person is valued and honored. Christ is present at Bourgade." What greater acknowledgement could be made to Bishop Olmstead's call for us to create environments where people encounter the living Christ?

I am honored to be Bourgade Golden Eagle!

Blessings on you and your family,

Kathryn Rother, Principal

Hillmann Project Update

The Hillmann project is well underway since our December 1st groundbreaking.

Demolition of the Hillmann Building is complete! Our architect has submitted the final plans for new construction to the City of Phoenix.

We anticipate new construction will commence in the middle of February.



Bourgade Catholic is a School on the Move

BCHS will undergo several changes as we step boldly through our 50th year as a Catholic high school .



The BCHS world is a swirl of rumors about significant changes coming for the 2012-2013 school year. Indeed, there will be changes in the coming year. Change is a sign of growth in a community. I am committed to the goal that all adjustments made in our school will be rooted in the tenet that our very purpose as a Catholic educational community is to provide for and enhance the transformation of young peoples' hearts and minds.

With this as our foundation here are the changes that will occur next year:

Our schedule will be in block format. This means students will attend 4 classes each day, as well as an advisory period. This means:

- The daily schedule will consist of three 90 minute classes or "blocks," one 45 minute class, and one advisory period each day.
- Classes will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. (Madonna Hall will continue to be open at 6:30 and the Library at 7:30)

We will expand our Campus Ministry program. This will include:

- a full-time Campus Minister
- a Campus Ministry Center which will be located in the new Hillmann Building.

We will initiate an International Student Program. We will find host families for and enroll up to 10 students from outside the United States.

New Elective course offerings will be offered online. These include:

- Chinese (Mandarin) I (1 credit)
- French I (1 credit)
- Accounting (1 credit)
- Personal Finance (.5 credit)
- Visual Basic.Net Programming (.5 credit)
- Game Design (.5 credit)

Who are we ?

The following is an articulation of observations that emerged from the retreat and discernment of the Executive Leadership Team .

We are a pilgrim community.

We acknowledge our call to be faithful Christians as a lifelong, intentional journey. While we journey we are open to the call and challenge of the Holy Spirit as we are led to encounter the living Christ as we seek justice and peace. We are pilgrim Christians seeking truth.

We are a servant community.

We strive to instill selflessness as we accept responsibility as stewards of God's creation. We call on the help of the Holy Spirit to keep us faithful to the heart of the Church, to give without expectation of gain; to offer our very selves for the good of others. We are Catholics working faithfully with servant hearts.

We are a welcoming community.

Inspired by lives of prayer, community, and service, the religious men and women who precede us have invited us to see Christ in every individual who crosses our path; they have challenged us to encounter the living Christ as we make God known, loved, and served in a community that educates both the heart and the mind. Together with them, we embrace and celebrate each individual's God-given talents and cultivate their many gifts. We are people of God offering authentic welcome.



School on the Move continued

5. **Current course titles will reflect our college preparatory identity.** A full listing appears in the 2012-13 Course Catalogue. Some examples include:

- English 1-2 will be Introduction to Literature and Composition; English 3-4 will be World Literature; English 5-6 will be American Literature; English 7-8 will be British Literature
- Algebra 5-6 will become Algebra II with Trigonometry

6. **We will participate in the FACTS tuition collection program.**

In everything we do we are committed to the learning of our students in an environment of support and high expectations. It is our responsibility as educators, therefore, to be aware of and implement the best practices of current educational research and instructional practice to provide opportunities for every one of our students to achieve at high levels of learning.

That learning is grounded in the understanding that each of our students deserves honor and dignity precisely because s/he is created in the image and likeness of God. We reflect that when we call them to higher levels of performance and learning; when we believe in their abilities and talents; when we support them in their struggles: and when celebrate them for their successes.



Block Schedule Advantages

- ⇒ Improved teaching and learning
- ⇒ Students' focus attention on 4 classes a day
- ⇒ Fragmentation of content is reduced
- ⇒ Allows for individualized pacing
- ⇒ Student and teacher attitudes improve
- ⇒ Student comprehension improves
- ⇒ Student achievement levels increase
- ⇒ Increases time for teacher-student communication
- ⇒ Builds stronger interpersonal relationships
- ⇒ Reduces time wasted on class transitions
- ⇒ Pace of school day relaxes
- ⇒ Additional funding unnecessary to implement
- ⇒ Reduces nightly homework
- ⇒ Allows for more complex labs and other project-based learning

Block Schedule Concerns

- ⇒ Loss of content continuity and retention
- ⇒ Overuse of lectures and study halls
- ⇒ Class time may drop overall
- ⇒ Transferring can be problematic
- ⇒ Absences are difficult to make up

Professional Development for the Block

How the Faculty are preparing to move to a Block Schedule

Here is what the teachers will be learning:

Feb.7: Current Brain research to support teaching in the Block (Dr. Nicholas Clement, Superintendent of Flowing Wells Unified School District)

March 16: Using the Extended Period Effectively –Master Lesson Designs

March 30: Effective Block Scheduling Strategies 1

April 20: Effective Block Scheduling Strategies 2

May 4: Effective Assessments in the Block



Upcoming Events

Parent Meeting in Madonna Hall
Thursday, February 16, 2012, 6:30 p.m. and
Wednesday, March 21 , 6:30 p.m.

I invite all parents to attend one of the meetings to hear from the school Administration introducing the changes that will be implemented next year. A question and answer period will follow.

International Student Program Information Night in the Library
February 15, 7:00 p.m. in the Library

Come learn about our International Student Program and how to become a host family to an international student who is interested in attending BCHS.

Safe Environment Training
March 15, 2012, 7:00 p.m. in Madonna Hall

This is an opportunity to receive the Diocesan "Call to Protect" training to qualify you for working or volunteering at school or becoming a host family for BCHS.

Research sources cited for Block Schedule

Block Schedule Teaching Strategies , [Inside the School Special Report](#). Inside the School.com. Web. 15 January 2012.

Kelly, Melissa. "Modular (Block) Schedule: Pros and Cons." [www.About.com Guide](#). Secondary Education, Educational Issues. Web. 2010. 15 January 2012.

Papas, Peter. "Making Blocks Work." [www.peterpappas.com](#). Designs For Learning. Web. 15 January 2012.

At Bourgade Catholic...

We warmly welcome students, faculty, and staff of many faiths who have a spirit of authentic respect for Catholic teaching and practice. We acknowledge and celebrate the Gospel's good news of resurrection and the Catholic faith as a path to moral integrity and personal holiness. We treasure our Catholic Christian identity.

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Please join me at our
Quest for Excellence
Dinner and Auction
Honoring 50 years of Alumni

Saturday, March 3, 2012
Silent Auction begins at 6:00

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