



BTIS

The Grapevine

A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Families,

The first marking period ends on **November 8**, creating an opportunity to check-in with your student about their achievements. While numerical grades can be a good starting point, it is also a chance to talk more broadly about how they feel about their progress this year, as well as whether they are working towards any particular goals.

Obviously, grades can be stressors for both students and parents. I always suggest students take the lead in problem-solving. This could take the form of having the student contact a teacher to discuss extra help opportunities or requesting a meeting with their school counselor to review good study habits. In almost all cases, communication between the teacher and student is the most important step in addressing a concern. Of course, if things are not changing for the better or there's a dramatic shift, the parent or caregiver should then reach out to either the teacher or school counselor to begin the conversation.

On a practical note, we do not mail home quarterly report cards. Marking period grades will be finalized in PowerSchool by **November 20**. Besides logging in, PowerSchool allows parents and caregivers to subscribe to weekly email digests as well as receive notifications through the PowerSchool mobile app. These features can help you stay in touch with your student's grades and attendance. Look for those features the next time you visit the site.

Very truly yours,
Sean Meehan, Principal



BTHS

The Grapevine

A Message from the PSFA

The Biotechnology PSFA is dedicated to our students, families, and faculty. BTHS parents are part of a very special community where your student will learn, grow and be challenged to do his or her absolute best, and we need your help to continue our success. Every penny raised benefits our student in ways like research funds, technology, class trips, social events, and even a new basketball net. To volunteer or for more information, the BTHS website contains a link to the PSFA webpage.

The BTHS website can be found at www.bths.mcvsd.org



BTIIS

The Grapevine

Advice for Incoming Freshmen

For the Class of 2021,

Welcome to Biotechnology High School! The four years that you spend here are going to be exciting and fun, as well as stressful and tiring. Here are some tips to help you navigate your first year here at Biotech:

- **Do not waste time when you get home!** Time management is perhaps the most important thing to learn in Freshman year. With time management, you will get more sleep, always be refreshed and alert, do well on tests, have better memory, and have a generally better high school experience. Decide how much time your daily extracurriculars and chores will take. Then, use the remaining time to plan out your day, giving each task its own time slot. This way, you have a schedule to follow, and you won't be able to waste as much time. By planning your day out and exercising self control, you end up with a lot more free time to do extracurricular activities, to pursue your hobbies, or to just relax.
- **Make time to relax and have fun.** Relaxation time is really important to fit into your day. It is very easy to become overwhelmed with work while at Biotech, and balancing work with extracurriculars and other tasks can be really stressful. Make sure you fit in some time each day to just clear your mind and do something that you enjoy. Work on a hobby, or go for a run. Make time to spend with your family and friends. These little things will help you stay positive, not be overwhelmed, and make your high school experience happier.
- **Tell your teachers** if there is a legitimate reason that you cannot do your homework. The high school years make up a very busy period in life, and a lot of things will happen, whether it's a family emergency or a sports practice that takes the whole day. If these things pose true obstacles in your ability to complete your homework, tell your teacher. Teachers at Biotech are very understanding and they are here to help. They will figure out a way to give you the credit that you deserve on an assignment.
- **Step outside your comfort zone.** Biotech provides a lot of opportunities to do this. If you think you're a bad public speaker, sign up for JSA and see just how much you can actually accomplish. If there's anything you've ever been slightly interested in, sign up for it and do it! Try new things, because you never know what might be your hidden talent or secret passion. There have been countless examples of people who thought that they would never be good actors, but signed up to participate in a musical and discovered their hidden talent. Trying new things is also just a great way to be more confident, have fun, and meet new people. It's definitely worth it.



BTIS

The Grapevine

Where is the Class of 2017?

- Bard College
- Bentley University
- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Cornell University
- Dartmouth College
- Drexel University
- Duke University
- Emory University
- Fordham University
- George Washington University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Haverford College
- Johns Hopkins University
- Lafayette College
- Lehigh University
- New Jersey Institute of Technology
- New York Institute of Technology
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Northwestern University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Princeton University
- Reed College

- Rutgers University-New Brunswick
- Stevens Institute of Technology
- The College of New Jersey
- The Cooper Union
- The Ohio State University
- The University of Oklahoma
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Michigan
- University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Rhode Island
- University of Rochester
- University of Southern California
- University of Virginia
- Vanderbilt University
- Villanova University
- Wesleyan University
- Williams College
- Yale University
- Youngstown State University



BTIIS

The Grapevine

Upcoming Events

October 24: Info session - this is an opportunity for middle schoolers to learn about Biotech and whether it is really the school for them. Presentations are held on courses, clubs, facilities and faculty, and much more. It is an ideal opportunity for aspiring Biotechers to learn about the school and to get their questions answered.

November 4: Info Session - described above

November 14: Biotech Day - this is a county-wide holiday celebrated to recognize Biotech's accomplishments as a Blue Ribbon School. The National Blue Ribbon Schools program is a national initiative that “recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups”.

October 19: Anti Bullying Seminar - an event held for students in grades 9-11 to learn about bullying and how we can prevent it.

November 22: IB Diploma Breakfast - this is an event held to award IB diplomas and to celebrate the achievements of IB graduates.

The BTHS
Arts and Entertainment Club
would like to invite you to the

October
Coffeehouse

For an unmissable night of music, art,
and food!



Join us at 6:00 pm on Friday, October 27, at the
Biotech MPR .



DESERT THEATER SOCIAL

November 17th, 7:00-9:30 pm

*Don't miss the PSFA's **biggest, sweetest, and most entertaining** fundraising event!*

This is a great event to meet other parents, sample delicious desserts and try your luck at winning fantastic gift baskets! This is the PSFA's biggest and hopefully only fundraiser of the year. ***This year we are adding a fun new element to entertain you by having our students perform songs in the style of a Dinner Theater. We have also add a new Wine Bottle Raffle.*** While you are enjoying the company of other BTHS parents and friends and eating fabulous desserts, you will also get to listen to the talented students of BTHS perform Broadway themed performances for you.

You can show your support by attending the event and purchasing tickets . Another great way to help is to solicit sponsorships from friends, family and local businesses. Their donations will be listed in the event program guide.

Most importantly, we would like every family to donate a basket! Please check out the BTHS PSFA blog (<http://www.bths.mcvsd.org/psfa-weblog>) for more information and plenty of links for reservations and donations.

Please note young children are **not** permitted to attend the event due to state regulations of events such as the Gift Basket Raffle, where games of chance are conducted.



BTIIS

The Grapevine

Teacher Feature: Mrs. MacLean

1. What is your favorite food? ICE CREAM and CHOCOLATE!
2. If you could go to any place in the world without having to worry about money or any obligations, where would you go? I would love to visit all of the National Parks, camping at each would be even better.
3. Do you prefer cities or the countryside? Definitely countryside
4. What is one of your favorite books? Freedom of Simplicity
5. What is one of your favorite things to do in your free time? Walk/play with my dog
6. What do you consider your greatest achievement? Raising, parenting, and homeschooling my kids.
7. What kind of music do you like? Christian and Instrumental Music
8. What is something that your students don't know about you? I have a twin brother
9. Why did you go into teaching? I enjoy watching students develop a passion for learning and being able to be a part of that process is very gratifying.
10. Tell us a joke. My dog used to chase people on a bike a lot. It got so bad, finally I had to take his bike away.

Mrs. MacLean teaches Research, Biotechnology Lab Skills, and Anatomy and Physiology She also advises the Science Competitions Club.



BTHS

The Grapevine

Club Notices

From **Arts and Entertainment:**

In a school as STEM-focused as Biotech, it is important for students to have a creative outlet. The entirely student-run Arts and Entertainment Club provides a space for that. Key features include an Art Club where weekly craft projects are worked on, tri-annual showcases of music and art, as well as the featured Spring Musical! The first major event of the year will be the Fall Coffeehouse. This is a great opportunity for students to showcase their musical talent in front of friends and family! There will also be an art display for independent projects. It will be located in the MPR at Biotech on Friday, October 27 at 6:00 pm.

From **Junior State of America:**

The Junior State of America (JSA) is a nationwide student-run organization centered around debate, political discussion, and activism. JSA is not only an outlet for students' political opinions; it also presents opportunities to meet new people from different towns, states, and walks of life. As experienced JSAers can attest, many close friends and great memories are developed through JSA. One regional event coming up is Fall One Day on Saturday, October 21st in Princeton University, in which students spend a day debating or discussing the political issues that are the most important to them at a minimal cost. Similarly, BTHS JSA set attendance records for an approaching overnight convention called Fall State in Iselin, NJ. JSA is a surefire way to invigorate any student's high school experience.



BTIIS

The Grapevine

SGA 2017-18

Co-presidents: Laura Vorbach and Lana Solloum

Club representative: Hassaam Choudhry

Freshman/Junior representative: Ian Williamson

Sophomore/Senior representative: Aditi Patel

PSFA representative: Harsheen Singh

Director of Student Affairs: Daniel DiPietro and
Kaitlyn Casey

Communications Chairman: Gurshan Gill



BTIIS

The Grapevine

SGA 2018-10

Co-presidents: Olivia Pasquale and Jeeshan Ahmed

Club representative: Samuel Mueller

Freshman/Junior representative: Odhran King

Sophomore/Senior representative: Mia Bersalona

PSFA representative: Chimaobi Chikezie

Director of Student Affairs: Amelia Jay and Jack
Campanella

Communications Chairman: Arya Sharma



BTIIS

The Grapevine

PSFA Contact Information

Co-President

Stacy Howard

Phone: 732-618-3885

Email: stacybhoward@gmail.com

Co-President

MaryLynn Teeling

Phone: 732-616-8029

Email: marylynn.teeling@gmail.com

Co-Vice President & Fundraising

Elana Eng

Phone: 732-530-6671

Email:

Elanaeng@gmail.com

Co-Vice President & Fundraising

Gomathy Kalynanraman

Phone: 732-684-0413

Email: k_gomathy@yahoo.com



BTHS

The Grapevine

PSFA Contact Information

Treasurer

Grace Chu

Phone: 917-209-3450

Email: hyingdan@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary

Haying Tan

Phone: 732-688-8982

Email: tanghy@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Shanda McManus

Phone: 908-902-3873

Email: shandamd@gmail.com

BTHS Contact Information

5000 Kozloski Road | Freehold, NJ 07728 | Phone: 732.431.7208 | Fax:
732-431-1395 | CEEB Code: 310904

Newsletter Editor: Nivedita Nambrath