

THE SCORPION SCOOP

Official Brandon Academy News



From the Head of School August 28, 2020

Dear BA Parents, Colleagues and Students,

Scorpion Scoop readers may be interested to learn that a recent study from the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), took as its primary goal the identification and description of the characteristics of high-quality teachers in independent schools. What makes a great teacher? The findings quite clearly showed the following: high-quality independent school teachers: 1) develop trusting and meaningful relationships with students; 2) demonstrate strong pedagogical knowledge and content expertise; 3) possess an ability to continually grow and learn as professional teachers as well as model learners; and; 4) are authentically committed to and ingrained in the school culture and mission.

Furthermore the research showed that independent schools not only value a teacher's ability to develop meaningful relationships with students and possess strong pedagogical and content knowledge, but they also value his or her application of those core competencies of teaching and learning. In other words, schools strive to ensure that a teacher's pedagogical and content-area skill and knowledge fit perfectly and positively within the context and culture of their particular school community. Teachers who know their subject, enjoy their students and appreciate and value their school, are always going to perform better as professionals and achieve greater success for their students.

I have to say that, based on my first couple of weeks at Brandon Academy, I have every confidence that our amazing teaching team here at BA is meeting and exceeding all of these criteria and more. We have made an excellent start to the year.

As a gentle reminder, starting next Monday, August 31, the Middle and High Schools will start school at 8am and the day will end at 3pm. More details below.

With my personal thanks for your continuing support of our school.

Kind regards,

Eric Miles
Head of School

News You Can Use

Important Changes Effective Monday, August 31

Adjusted School Start and End Times for Middle/ High School Students

Starting Monday, the start of the school day for all students is 8:00 am and the end of the school day will be 3:00 pm.

The Updated MS/ HS Class Schedule for A & B Days

7:40 - 8:00 am Drop-Off

8:00 - 8:15 am Homeroom

8:15 - 9:45 am Period 1

9:45 - 11:15 am Period 2

11:15 - 1:30 pm Period 3 & Lunch

1:30 - 3:00 pm Period 4

3:00 - 3:30 pm Dismissal

At-Home Learners

Please be mindful that the start time for classes has adjusted by 15 minutes.

Drop-off

- Before Care: Families that drop students off at Before Care, from 7:00 am - 7:40 am, will do so by the Student Life Center/ Gym.
- At 7:40 am, we will open up the front gates by Dawn's office and the Main Office.
- Families can use either drop-off location between 7:40 - 8:00 am.

Pick-up

With school ending at 3:00 pm, please use the following pick-up procedures to help alleviate some traffic congestions:

- Students in grades 3 - 8 will be picked up by the Student Life Center/ Gym.
- Students in grades K-2 and 9-12 will be picked up in the front of the school by the Main Office.
- Families with students in multiple grades can use either pick-up line.

Medication

If your student needs prescription medication or emergency medications at school, please bring all medications to the Main Office along with a doctor's note explaining when and how much medicine should be given. Please label the medicine bottle with your child's name.

Attendance

Beginning Monday, August 31, parents are to call or email the Front Office (attendance@brandon-academy.com) by 8:15 if your child will be absent.

Friendly Reminders from Your BA Teachers

- Please remember to pack extra, clean masks in your child's backpack.
- 4th & 5th Grade - NO P.E. uniforms are needed until further notice. Students will wear their school uniform to P.E.
- Please remember to pack your child a water bottle.

Additional Useful Links

[Brandon Academy Website](#)

[2020-2021 Student/ Parent Handbook](#)

Important Dates

Here is the [link](#) to the 2020 - 2021 BA School Year Calendar. This calendar contains major school activities and events. While this document contains a lot of important information, dates, etc, please visit the BA website for additional information.

Weekly Look Ahead

Date	Event	Times	Location
Mon, Aug 31	New MS/ HS school times Start time: 8:00 am End time: 3:00 pm		
Fri, Sept 4	Upper School Club Fair	2:30 pm	MS & US
Tues, Sept 15	Picture Day	All Day	TBA
Tues, Sept 15	Lower School Back to School Night	6:00 pm	Gym
Thur, Sept 17	Upper School Back to School Night	6:00 pm	Gym

Athletic News

High School Volleyball Schedule

September 4 at Bayshore Christian at 6:00 pm

September 11 vs. Pepin Academy at 5:00 pm

September 18 vs. Bayshore Christian at 5:00 pm

September 22 vs. North Tampa at 5:00 pm

September 29 at North Tampa at 5:00 pm

October 7 at Pepin Academy (played at the MAC center) at 4:00 pm

October 12 - District Tournament

Middle School Varsity Volleyball Schedule

September 3 vs. HEAT Red (Home) @ 4:30

September 10 vs. Bell Shoals (Home) @ 4:30

September 24 vs. FISH (Home) @ 4:30

October 2 vs. Central Baptist @ 4:30

October 8 vs. Family of Christ @4:30

Middle School JV Volleyball Schedule

September 3 vs. HEAT Red (Home) @ 3:30

September 10 vs. Bell Shoals (Home) @ 3:30

September 14 vs. HEAT Black (Home) @ 3:30

September 24 vs. FISH (Home) @ 3:30

October 2 vs. Central Baptist (Away) @ 3:30

October 8 vs. Family of Christ (Home) @ 3:30

Go Scorpions!