



**From the Head of School**  
**December 11, 2020**

Dear Students, Colleagues, Parents, and Friends,

School administrators have often been known to say that the best work in school is done before the holidays. The rationale is that, in the fall and winter months, the students are not distracted by thoughts of summer vacations and beach afternoons in the sun. One of the happy consequences of living in a beautiful place such as Tampa is that we have summer for virtually 12 months a year. In that sense, the old adage does not hold. Nonetheless, we have certainly witnessed a very full and fulfilling first semester at BA.

I know that the on-campus students, as well as the At-Home Learners, and teachers are ready for a richly-deserved Holiday Break, having all worked very hard throughout the first half of the school year. Well done, students and colleagues, and thank you all for your commitment, determination, and good cheer throughout the semester.

You may know that, every year, Brandon Academy students participate in the Scorpion Angel Project to bring much needed holiday cheer to the persons with disabilities through the organization called Dream Support. This year, our students have been busy pooling their resources to provide gifts for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These include mental retardation, Down's syndrome, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, Prader-Willi, and autism. The gifts will be delivered next week. I am proud of every one of our students for continuing this very worthy and important BA tradition.

In a similar vein, on behalf of all my BA colleagues, allow me to thank all those very kind parents who offered seasonal gifts to us here at school. How kind of you to remember your child's teachers and school staff in this way. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated by every single one of us. Thank you all very much.

The holiday season is a time to celebrate the universal human aspirations of peace, generosity of spirit, and mutual understanding. No matter how we choose to celebrate this season, this time of year reminds us that the beliefs and stories that unite us are far greater than those which divide us. Good times, good memories, and the warmth of family and friends always provide the best material for the most memorable tales that we will forever recall in years to come.

To those families and friends who celebrate Christmas, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. To our entire BA community, I wish a sincere "Happy Holidays." The compliments of the season to us all.

School will resume at the usual time on Tuesday, January 5th, 2021.

Kind regards,

Eric Miles

Head of School

# Campus News

## January Lunch Order Form

[Here is the link](#) for the lunch calendar for January 2021. **Lunch orders are due no later than Monday, December 14.** Please be sure to print out the calendar and turn in by the due date with correct payment. Emailed orders will not be accepted. Also, on the HB/HD day, please be sure to indicate which item your child would like to have on that day. Thank you.

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Next **Friday, December 18**, school ends at noon. There will not be any extended care, and the BA Offices will close at 12:30 pm.

Happy Holidays!

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## BA Spelling Bee Winners



The annual Brandon Academy Spelling Bee was held on Tuesday, December 9 in the Student Life Center. This year's winner is 5th grader, Bethel Muluken. Our runner up is 6th grader, Alaina Mendoza. Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Bee. A special thank you to Mrs. Wallen for moderating, and to Mrs. Vanermine and Mrs. Miles for judging the competition.

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With an 1460 SAT score, senior Aidan Seventuna was recently admitted to [USF's Honors College](#). Aidan plans on pursuing a BS Degree and Master's Degree in Psychology.

Congratulations, and Go Bulls!

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### Second Grade Seasonal Art



Second grade just completed an exciting art project with clorox bottles and lots of yarn. They worked for two weeks to complete their Santa Claus decorations. This project took patience and collaboration with others to complete. The second graders completed the project like champs!

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### I Wish I Would Have Known!



This past week, members of the High School Student Council spoke to middle school classes as well as 9th and 10th grade, sharing lessons that they learned regarding their study habits, getting help from teachers, and maximizing opportunities at BA.

The juniors and seniors heard from Ved Verma, BA Class of 2019. Ved is currently attending the University of Florida, and he shared lessons from his time at BA, the college admission process, and experiences from his first semester at UF.

## Upper School Exam Schedule

### HIGH SCHOOL S1 EXAM SCHEDULE (Both On Campus and AHL Students)

	<b>Fri, Dec 11</b>	<b>Mon, Dec 14 9:00-11:00</b>	<b>Tue, Dec 15 9:00-11:00</b>	<b>Wed, Dec 16 9:00-11:00</b>	<b>Thu, Dec 17 9:00-11:00</b>
<b>12th Grade</b>	Spanish 8:15-9:45am	Science	Math	English	History
<b>11th Grade</b>	Spanish 9:45-11:15	Math	Science	History	English
<b>10th Grade</b>	Spanish 1:30-3:00	English	History	Science	Math
<b>9th Grade</b>	Spanish 11:15-12:45	History	English	Math	Science

### MIDDLE SCHOOL S1 EXAM SCHEDULE (Both On Campus & AHL Students)

	<b>Fri, Dec. 11</b>	<b>Mon, Dec. 14</b>	<b>Tue, Dec. 15</b>	<b>Wed, Dec. 16</b>	<b>Thu, Dec. 17</b>
<b>8th Grade</b>	Spanish 2nd period	Science 3rd or 4th period	English 3rd or 4th period	History 1st or 2nd period	Math 1st or 2nd period
<b>7th Grade</b>	Spanish 2nd period	Science 2nd period	English 1st period	History 4th period	Math 3rd period
<b>6th Grade</b>		Science 1st period	English 2nd period	History 3rd period	Math 4th period



## Athletic News

### **BASKETBALL**

The boys high school basketball team is off to a great start this season. The team won their first game against Gulf Coast HEAT. They will be playing in a basketball tournament over the winter break. We wish them the best as they complete with some of the best teams in the Tampa area.

The team's next home game is January 8th against Cambridge Christian.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL FLAG FOOTBALL**

There will be a brief informational meeting on Wednesday, December 16 at noon for all students who are interested in playing flag football. Students in grades 4-8 are eligible to participate.

Contact Coach Galzerano at [galzerano@brandon-academy.com](mailto:galzerano@brandon-academy.com) for more information.