

THE SCORPION SCOOP

Official Brandon Academy News



From the Head of School October 2, 2020

Dear Colleagues, Parents, Students, and Friends,

I had the pleasure of speaking with the middle school students this week about the meaning of good character and how to be a good citizen. I talked to the students about the foundation of good character as “doing the right thing, even when no one is around.” The point we were trying to make was that schools like BA are not just examination factories or places where empty knowledge is crammed into young minds without any greater purpose. There is something at BA called the hidden curriculum, which reveals itself in the way we treat each other on campus, the way we receive newcomers and younger students, and the way we conduct ourselves in various situations. Character education counts. Ask your middle school child about eating the marshmallow. They had lots to say about this...

At both ends of the school, we have had triumphs to report. The BA Varsity Football Team won their very first tackle football game last Friday. Well done to all the boys and coaches involved. In addition, I want to congratulate all the Grade 5 students upon the publication of their own [The BA Times](#). Should I be worried about my job creating the Scorpion Scoop?

Whatever your plans for next weekend, enjoy an invigorating Fall Break. Parent/Teacher Conferences are next Friday, October 9. Details are below. School offices will be closed on Monday, October 12 for Columbus Day. School resumes for students at the usual time on Tuesday, October 13th. Finally, we have a dismissal time change for Friday, October 30. Full details are below.

Kind regards,

Eric Miles
Head of School

Friday, October 30 Dismissal moved to 1pm

It has been a long standing tradition for BA students to wear appropriate costumes to school for Halloween. This year, it is our intention to maintain the positive and fun spirit of this event. While students are not required to wear costumes on Halloween, those students who do wish to participate are reminded of the following guidelines:

1. Face painting should be applied at home and should be minimally applied so that students' faces are recognizable. Students will still need to wear their cloth face mask.
2. Costumes may not mock another student, faculty member, race, religious or lifestyle preference.
3. Costume accessories that are deemed dangerous or similar to weaponry are not permitted.
4. Do not wear masks or any item that will impede your vision or identity.
5. Finally, all costumes should maintain the integrity of our school dress code.

Please understand that these guidelines are put in place to ensure the safety of all our students. Wearing a costume is considered a school privilege. Students are allowed to wear their costumes during the course of the day.

Each year, our students display some of the most well designed costumes that require a lot of thought and planning. This year should be no different. I look forward to seeing the creativity of our students when they arrive at school on October 30th.



While many families are trying to figure out how to celebrate Halloween during COVID, we are pleased to announce that BA will have a Trunk or Treat for students in grades JK through 3rd grade at 8:45 am on Friday, October 30. We are limiting the number of cars to 30. Parents that want to participate need to [sign-up here](#). Here are the details:

Controlling the Crowd for Trunk or Treat

Lower School students will parade 6 feet apart and this will also be the case for the Trunk

or Treat. Families that participate will have to stay 6 feet back from the students. The school will be using white lines to mark the 6 feet buffer along the parade route. BA will also mark the parking spaces with large Xs to make sure cars are appropriately distanced. Finally, arrows and SGA students will help to direct foot traffic and keep students walking in one direction.

Mask Up for Trunk or Treat

The tradition of dressing in costume on Halloween originated from ancient traditions of warding off spirits. It will be mandatory that everyone mask up at Trunk or Treat to ward off COVID-19. Here are some halloween themed masks:

- [Scary and silly mouths](#)
- [Cloth Halloween face masks](#)
- [Disposable Halloween](#)

Trunk or Treat Candy

We will be skipping the bowl of treats to pass out this year so the trick or treaters aren't all reaching into the same bowl. Instead, each Trunk or Treat car should have a table set up six feet in front of it. [Pre packaged snacks, candy, or treat bags](#) should be laid out on the table for kids to pick up. McDonald's usually sells Halloween Treat Packs that cost \$1, which includes coupons for free ice cream cones, burgers, and apple slices—a fun treat to redeem later!

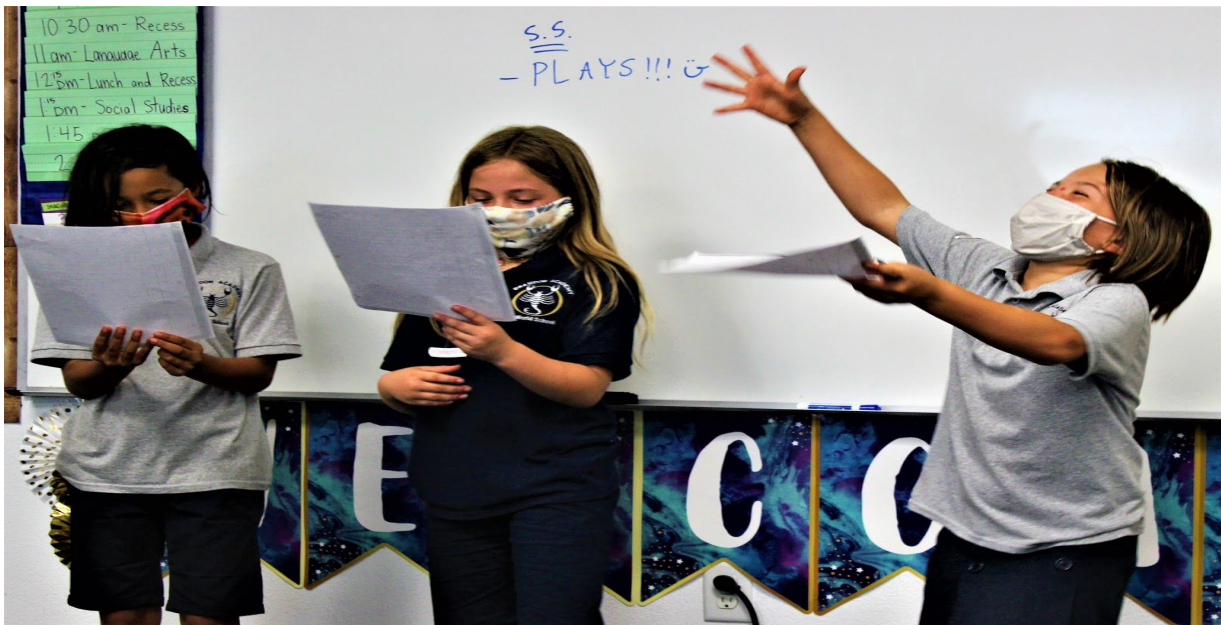
October 30th Schedule

8:00	Student Arrival to School
8:15	Parents that have signed up for Trunk or Treat park by BA gym
8:30	LS Parade for JK - 3rd Grade Students
8:45	Trunk or Treat Parade by the Gym
9:15	Students return to their classrooms
10:00	Lower School Haunted House
11:00	Upper School Haunted House
11:00	Lower School Lunches
12:00	Middle School Lunch
12:30	High School Lunch
1:00	Dismissal

Activities will be provided for students that can not be picked-up at 1:00 pm. Extended care will start at 3:30 pm as usual.

News On Campus

The seventh grade character trait of the month was respect. One of the activities they did after watching this video was spread positivity around BA!



Mrs. Vanermine's fourth grade social studies class has been studying the American Revolution. As a culmination to the lesson, the students wrote and performed "mini-plays" about one of the events studied in class. They performed them for their classmates, Mrs. Strickland, and Mr. Miles. Well done, fourth grade.

News You Can Use

Teacher/ Parent Conference Day

Next Friday, October 9, is our fall parent-teacher conference day. There will be no school for students. Lower School teachers have already contacted families regarding conferences. Middle and High School parents were emailed yesterday. The conferences will be scheduled every 15 minutes from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and all conferences will be via Zoom. The time slots are available on a first-come basis, and parents have until next **Wednesday, October 7** to sign-up. Teachers will email parents that have signed up a Zoom link on Thursday, October 8.

[Middle School Sign-ups](#)

[High School Sign-ups](#)

Since conferences are only 10 minutes, it is important to be on time for your appointment. As always, parents are welcome to meet and communicate with any teacher throughout the year, so if October 9 doesn't work, please contact the teacher directly to schedule a time to speak.

The last day of Q1 is Friday, October 16. Our faculty will finalize Q1 grades and write thoughtful comments on each student's progress this past quarter and goals going forward during the week of October 19th. Q1 Grades and Comments will be emailed to you on Friday, October 23.



Students need to bring their own reusable water bottle to fill up at school. Currently, water fountains are only allowed to be used for filling-up personal water bottles and not to drink directly from the fountain.

Athletic News



Date	Team	Opponent	Time
Monday, Oct 5	High School VB	@ North Tampa	5pm
Wednesday, Oct 7	High School VB	@ Pepin	4pm
Thursday, Oct 8	Middle School VB	vs. Family of Christ	3:30/4:30 pm
Thursday, Oct 8	High School FB	Home vs. Atlantic Prep	4 pm
Tuesday, Oct 13	High School VB	District Tournament Vs. Bayshore	5pm

GO SCORPIONS!