

THE SCORPION SCOOP

Official Brandon Academy News



From the Head of School September 11, 2020

Dear BA Parents, Colleagues, and Students,

Labor Day is in the rearview mirror as we start to round the corner of the calendar toward the end of 2020, but now is not the time for us to let-up on a variety of fronts. First, I am pleased to report that we have started the school year very safely and effectively. I have been involved in a number of roundtables dealing with the initial return to campus and campus safety. Nationally, the opening of schools has been fueled by anxiety, adrenaline, and a community spirit of getting it right. Now that we are a month into being back on campus, it is easy to start to let those safety standards slide, particularly since the Tampa area is seeing virus levels drop to less alarming levels. Moving away from our safety standards without conscious policy change and reasoning could create a greater risk of potential harm.

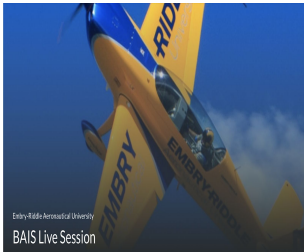
Therefore, after careful consideration, this year's Lower School and Upper School Curriculum Nights will be held virtually. In lieu of an evening where everyone spends their time jumping in and out of different Zoom meetings, teachers will instead create videos of their classroom curriculum. Parents, you will be able to watch these videos at a time that is convenient for you. Next Friday's Scorpion Scoop edition (September 18) will contain our teachers' Curriculum Night presentations. The link to the videos will remain available through the month of September. Our teachers will miss the opportunity to connect with parents in person this year, but they are excited to share with you all that they are doing in their classrooms as they work to educate your children to succeed in this ever-changing world.

Finally, today is the 19th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. In our home rooms this morning, teachers spent time talking about the 9/11 events. Moments like this need the regular input from folks like us to continue to be alive and relevant to succeeding cohorts of students, many of whom were not even born in time for 9/11, never mind older conflicts. Around the country, people pause to remember those who lost their lives on the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, vowing to "never forget". Senator John Kerry captured the event timelessly, *"It was the worst day we have ever seen, but it brought out the best in all of us."* Celebrate and enjoy the time with your families this weekend.

Kind regards,

Eric Miles
Head of School

News You Can Use



Bay Area Independent Schools (BAIS) College Fair

This year's annual Bay Area Independent Schools (BAIS) College Fair will be taking place VIRTUALLY this Sunday, September 13th from 12-8pm. Nearly 135 colleges and universities have created a virtual space to connect with students and families. This program is open to students and parents from all grade levels.



To get started, you must pre-register for this event using the Student Registration Link and code provided below:

[Student Registration Link](#)

Code: BAIS2020



As you navigate the heydays platform, you'll see the colleges and universities who have already created session times. Please note that not all schools have activated their sessions yet. Rest assured, by the time the fair begins, all schools will have active spaces to interact with students. There will be "live presentations" where reps will tell you about their colleges/universities, as well as times where you can "meet" with them individually or in group formats to ask all your burning questions. The representatives' contact information can be found here: [BAIS Participant List](#)



While the fair begins at 12pm, colleges and universities will not be available until 1pm to engage with you. We hope you will use the time from 12-1pm to set your itinerary on your registration page. See attached for resources to assist you in preparing and navigating the college fair.

Attachments:

[ASK BETTER QUESTIONS GA Tech.pdf](#)

[HowtoMaketheMostofaCollegeFairExperienceCEG.pdf](#)



Mrs. Strickland



Mrs. Miles



Ms. Daley

School Picture Day

Say Cheese! BA Picture Day is Tuesday, September 15th. Do not pass up the chance to immortalize your children like these BA employees. Did you guess last week's pictures?

ORDER FORM

HAVE QUESTIONS?

WE HAVE ANSWERS


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customerservice@strawbridge.net


www.strawbridge.net



Zoom Etiquette for AHL Students

1. Be on time.
2. Dress Code.
3. Mute yourself unless talking.
4. Turn on your video.
5. Be respectful.
6. No eating.



Rainy Day Dismissal

On rainy days, the school will use the Remind App to notify parents if the school will be dismissing using the Rainy Day procedures. For Rainy Day Dismissal, all students will exit the school through the main office. Parents will be notified via the Remind App around 2:40 pm.



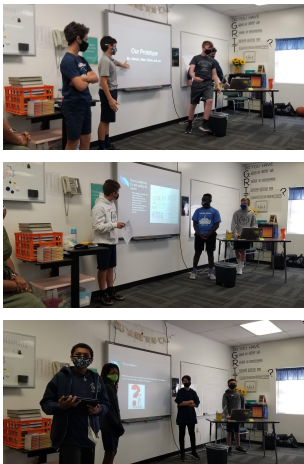
Free Dress Day next Friday, September 18!



Remind APP

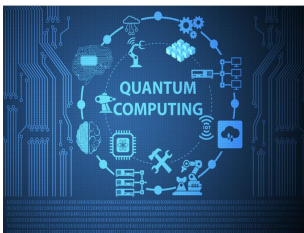
For alerts or schedule changes/reminders throughout the school year, please sign up for Remind. It is a free text messaging service. You may sign up based on your child's grade and if you have multiple children, you only need to sign up in one division.

- Grades PK 3 - 5: text @ brandonls to 81010
- Grades 6 - 8: text @brandon68 to 81010
- Grades 9 - 12: text @brandon912 to 81010



Design Thinking Elective

The students of the Design Thinking Elective presented possible solutions for three new COVID-19 issues that BA is currently facing. In their presentations, each group identified a problem, conducted research, and presented a solution to the BA Administration. The presentations focused on how to hear teachers better, how to clearly mark where students should sit at lunch, and how to ensure face masks do not hit the ground. The goal for the presentations is to implement these suggestions to our campus.



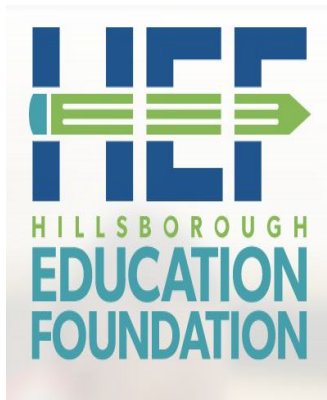
High School STEM Career Elective

Students in the High School STEM career elective have had 3 zoom guest speakers so far this year. Today students spoke with Amir Karamlou from MIT about what quantum computing is and careers that are available in the field. Here is one student's summary of our discussion:



"Quantum computing is an advanced form of classical computing using quantum mechanics. Classical computers use bits which can be 1 or 0, but quantum computers use qubits which can be 1, 0, or both. Qubits use a law called superposition where something is in two states at once. Qubits can be in many different states like light as it is a wave and a particle. These quantum computers can solve equations that take an eternity to solve with classical computers, and solve them in 40 seconds. They are also able to create complicated chemical equations which can help with creating drugs and vaccines."

Community Service at BA



A Key Club Community Service Event

Saturday, September 26th from 8:30AM-12:30PM

The Teaching Tools Resource Center provides opportunity for teachers in Title 1 schools to shop for core school supplies and other resources needed for their classrooms. Volunteers will pack orders for teachers and deliver them curbside. Because of volunteer and community support, the Teaching Tools Resource Center provided teachers with more than \$3.5 million in supplies for the 2019-2020 school year! See Melissa Heck for more details.

HELP OUR HEROES



The Middle School Builders club is collecting items for care packages for our soldiers that are fighting overseas. These soldiers are sacrificing their lives for our freedom and can't do it without your support! We are sending these packages to two different units in the Middle East. The first unit is the 1st Battalion, 325 Airborne Infantry Regiment. They are part of the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC, and they are in Iraq supporting action against ISIS as a part of Operation Inherent Resolve. The Second unit is a National Guard Infantry Battalion. Here are the items they would love to receive:



Freebies, Nerf footballs, card games, board games, weights, workout equipment, books, journals, ramen noodles, microwavable mac and cheese, snacks, gum, chapstick, lotion, hot sauce, seasoning salt, beef jerky, powdered energy drink powder, sunscreen, trail mix, and baby wipes.

We are collecting these items Sept.14th-Oct.15th.

Thank You for your support!

Sincerely,
Builders Club

Athletic News

Home Games Next Week Monday, Sept 14 - Friday, Sept 18

Monday, Sept 14 BA vs. HEAT BLACK (JV) Volleyball at 3:30 pm



GO SCORPIONS!