

# THE SCORPION SCOOP

Official Brandon Academy News



COMMUNICATE | COLLABORATE | CRITICAL THINKING | CREATE

## From the Head of School September 4, 2020

Dear BA Parents, Colleagues, and Students,

Labor Day Weekend is, by tradition, when we honor “workers”, usually thinking that means agrarian, manufacturing, service, and similar mostly manual occupations—though such a definition is surely dated as we move forward in the 21st century. The first “Labor Day” was in 1882 and became a national event in 1894—with its goal more to deter labor unrest than honor work—and the weekend it created evolved more into a white collar end-of-summer escape. Both realities are awkward. As with other honoring dates, the “purpose” conveyed by the holiday’s name has increasingly diminished.

I would like to thank everyone who supports every aspect of our 21st century life. For instance, at BA, those individuals who create and maintain our infrastructure, as well as those who have chosen less titled roles yet, are vital partners. Our national culture/economy is dependent on every layer of service—the highly professional/managerial, the highly entrepreneurial, the highly humanitarian, the highly supportive. To use political language, the job creators and job fillers. The leaders and followers. The speakers and listeners. The artists and audiences. And, of course, those who teach—and we who learn. BA, obviously, is no exception. And we all share in each other’s roles.

May we take at least some part of this “Labor Day” Monday to be grateful for our on campus (and national) effective coexistence—and spirit of mutual appreciation. Our commitment to expressing thanks, on identified occasions like “Labor Day”—and daily. All roles are crucial to our collective progress. And such an understanding of “labor” needs to be honored.

Kind regards,

Eric Miles  
Head of School



### 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. Recognize them?

### ORDER FORM

**HAVE QUESTIONS?**  
WE HAVE ANSWERS

 1-866-624-6229

 customerservice@strawbridge.net

 www.strawbridge.net

### 2020-2021 Handbook Modification



The exponential growth of technology and its role in education for students has been very exciting, but has also proven to be very challenging. Students are faced with more distractions than ever before, and many students are struggling to maintain focus and concentration, manage impulsivity, and avoid distraction. General research shows that when students carry phones with them or wear a smartwatch, they display lower levels of concentration due to constant interruptions, an increased fear of missing out, reduced memory, warped views on reality, and increased levels of stress. Most recent research has found that the mere presence of a phone or smartwatch, either in a pocket or on a desk, is enough to reduce cognitive capacity. In order to support students' learning and positive well-being, effective Tuesday, September 7, students will not be permitted to wear smartwatches in class. Unlike iPads and laptops, students are not required to have a smartwatch in school. Students are permitted to keep their smartwatch in their backpacks. If, in an emergency, a student needs to contact a parent or a parent needs to contact his/her child during the school day, this contact would be made via the BA Main Office. The Updated S/P Handbook [link](#).



## **Lower School Curriculum Night**

**Tuesday, September 15, 2020**

Up to 2 parents and their student(s) are invited to attend. Siblings and extended family are not permitted to attend due to COVID restrictions. The night is divided into two sessions:

### **Session 1: Families whose last name starts w/ A-M**

5:30-6:00 pm - Welcome by BA Administration in the Gym

6:05-6:30 pm - Families visit classrooms

### **Session 2: Families whose last name starts w/ N-Z**

6:30-7:00 pm - Welcome by BA Administration in the Gym

7:05-7:30 pm - Families visit classrooms

### **LS At-Home Learners**

6:30 - 7:00 pm - Zoom in with the classroom teacher. Links will be sent next week.



## **Upper School Curriculum Night**

**Thursday, September 17, 2020**

This presentation is for parents/ guardians only. Siblings, students and extended family are not permitted to attend.

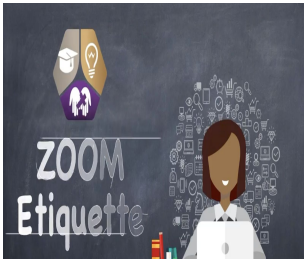
6:00 - 6:30 pm: Welcome by BA Administration in the Gym

6:30 - 7:15 pm: MS Curriculum Presentation in the Gym

6:30 - 7:15 pm: HS Curriculum Presentation in the HS

### **US At-Home Learners**

6:00 - 7:15 pm - Zoom in at 6:00 pm. Links will be sent next week.



### **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.



### **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



### **Extracurricular Forms**

Extracurricular Forms are due by Tuesday, September 8. Forms can be found [here](#).



### **Masks are Required on Campus**

Parents, a reminder that masks are required when you come onto campus. For example, please wear a mask when attending athletic events or when picking up your child at Extended Care.



### **Attendance**

If your child is going to be absent, please call (813) 689-1952 or email the Front Office ([attendance@brandon-academy.com](mailto:attendance@brandon-academy.com)) by 8:15 am.





### Friendly Reminders from Your BA Teachers

- Please remember to pack extra, clean masks in your child's backpack.
- Please remember to pack your child a water bottle.





### Artist in Residence?

A BIG thank you to 4th grader, Sabrina for painting and donating this beautiful picture of our school mascot, the Scorpion! Well done, Sabrina!

## 10 Questions for New Faces on Campus

Click on the names below for a short introductory video

			
<a href="#"><u>Sarah Sparks</u></a> Office Admin Assistant	<a href="#"><u>Gabriella Wallace</u></a> Lower School TA/ AfterCare	<a href="#"><u>Julie Sireuil</u></a> Lower School TA	<a href="#"><u>Erin Winslow</u></a> Lower School TA

## Athletic News



### **BRANDON ACADEMY TACKLE FOOTBALL** **Join us for BA's inaugural tackle football season!**

The inaugural season of Brandon Academy tackle football is upon us! The team has been working hard all summer and is now preparing for its first ever season. BA will be playing full-contact tackle football in the FCAPPS 6-man Football League. FCAPPS has 16 teams playing 6-man football statewide, and it is a face-paced, high scoring fun game! We invite you to take part in our season.

We are also still looking for players (we have a limited roster and can fit two more players to the team. This is open to 7th-12th graders).

We also need team managers, chain-crew volunteers, and ticket takers for home games. Please be a part of the first ever tackle football season at BA and volunteer!

### **High School Football Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Opponent</b>
Fri Sept 11	3:30 pm	Home	Pre-season vs Tampa Bay Christian
Fri Sept 25	TBA	Away	Hillsborough Baptist
Fri Oct 2	TBA	Away	Donahue Catholic
Fri Oct 9	TBA	Home	Atlantic Prep
Fri Oct 16	TBA	Home	Classical Prep
Fri Oct 30	TBA	Away	Hernando Christian
Fri Nov 6	TBA	Home	Geneva Classical - HOMECOMING WEEK
Fri Nov 13	TBA	Home	Village View

### High School Volleyball Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Opponent</b>
Thu Sept 4	6:00 pm	Away	Bayshore Christian
Thu Sept 11	5:00 pm	Home	Pepin Academy
Tue Sept 18	5:00 pm	Home	Bayshore Christian
Mon Sept 22	5:00 pm	Home	North Tampa
Mon Sept 29	5:00 pm	Away	North Tampa
Fri Oct 7	4:00 pm	Away	Pepin Academy
Thu Oct 12	TBA	TBA	District Tournament

### Middle School Varsity Volleyball Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Opponent</b>
Thu Sept 3	4:30 pm	Home	HEAT Red
Thu Sept 10	4:30 pm	Home	Bell Shoals
Thu Sept 24	4:30 pm	Home	FISH
Oct 2	4:30 pm	Away	Central Baptist
Oct 8	4:30 pm	Away	Family of Christ

### Middle School JV Volleyball Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Opponent</b>
Thu Sept 3	3:30 pm	Home	HEAT Red
Thu Sept 10	3:30 pm	Home	Bell Shoals
Sept 14	3:30 pm	Home	HEAT Black
Thu Sept 24	3:30 pm	Home	FISH
Oct 2	3:30 pm	Away	Central Baptist
Oct 8	3:30 pm	Away	Family of Christ

**Pictures from Thursday's Middle School Volleyball game vs. the HEAT!  
Go Scorpions!**

