

TORY TRIBUNE



Britton-Macon Area School Middle/High School Parent Newsletter

The mission of the Britton-Macon Area School, the focal point of a small rural community, is to develop, in an active learning environment, independent thinkers who are respectful and responsible citizens capable of adapting, and assuming a productive role in an ever changing world.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

First of all, it's been a wicked winter- hasn't it? As for the cold, a local meteorologist has determined that, so far, this winter has been the 12th coldest winter and the top five years with the most snow fall since 1880! All I know is my furnace has been running too often and is burning too much fuel!

Hopefully you will find useful information in this Winter 2009 Parent Newsletter. As always, we want you to read the entire MS/HS newsletter, but especially be aware of the information on parent-teacher conferences and Curriculum Night for students and parents of 8th graders on March 9th. At these events you will get information about high school transcripts, freshman course scheduling, Michigan Merit Curriculum, summer

school offerings, last Fall's 2008 MEAP scores and have an opportunity to meet each of your son or daughter's high school teachers. Parents of juniors will want to read and understand the importance of our March Michigan Merit Exam and the \$4,000 Michigan Promise Scholarship available for your son/daughter. Also, 6th grade parents, please review the information on this year's 6th Grade Camp and our 2nd year of Middle School Summer Transition Program.

Thank you all for your parental support during this school year!

John Easley,
MS/HS Principal

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PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

On Thursday, February 12th, we will have our winter/spring Parent-Teacher Conferences. The location of these conferences will be in our cafetorium. The following are times to discuss celebrations or concerns with your son or daughter's teachers:

12:30-3:30pm
4:30-7:30pm

Please note there is no school for students in the afternoon. Also, a reminder to parents, after signing in please register for our "Dinner for Two" raffle drawing.

PROM 2009

This year's junior class will be hosting prom on April 18th. This year's prom will be held at the Lenawee County Country Club in Adrian. Following the Prom, our junior parents have organized an "After the Prom" party. Any parents interested in helping with this plan should contact Debra Price @ 517-920-2307. If you have any questions about this year's Prom, please contact either junior class advisor, Erin Slusher or Diane Matuszak.



Britton-Macon MS/HS Phone Extensions/Email Addresses

All teachers have voice mail. Please only call teachers during their prep period. When calling a teacher, please leave a message on their voice mail. If you're interested in emailing a teacher, please use their first name, period, last name followed by @britton-macon.us (example: john.eisley@britton-macon.us)

Main Office #	517-451-4581
Counseling #	451-4581 ext. 226
Athletics #	451-4581 ext. 290
Food Service #	451-4581 ext. 228
Fax #	451-8595
Becky Briggs	221
Taina Bundshuh	241
Andrew Clark	240
Paul Cousineau	261
John Eisley	224
Kristin Gedeon	256
Craig Gibbs	296
Amy Good	242
David Masterson	238
Stacie McMullen	222
Peggy Musielewicz	245
Jon Musolf	244
Aaron Mykeloff	230
Vicky Oliver	239
Shaun Ormsby	237
Elizabeth Pechaitis	233
Jon Reynolds	243
Wes Rickard	226
Doyle Rodenbeck	292
Lesa Smith	294
Chad Spencer	291
Doug Witt	255
Kristy Zajac	236

WINTERFEST

Winterfest will be held on Friday, February 27, following our triple header Boys Junior Varsity, Boys and Girls Varsity basketball games. Spirit week will be during the week of February 23-27. A pep assembly will finish off the week during Friday's 7th hour. Our new Winterfest King and Queen will be crowned between the varsity boys and girls basketball game. The annual semi-formal Winterfest Dance will be held from 9-11:00 p.m. following the basketball games.



PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE REPORT

At our Fall MS/HS Parent/Teacher Conferences, we had 62% parent representatives.

2006	63%
2007	69%

Thank you parents who participated!

HOME ACCESS CENTER (HAC)

Parents, just a reminder that you can access your son/daughters daily grades, transcript, attendance, discipline report, hourly tardy report, and other information through our new online program called HOME ACCESS CENTER (HAC). If you forgot your parent access code, please feel free to contact our office secretary, Stacie McMullen, at 451-4581 ext. 222.

DECA

The Britton DECA Chapter traveled to EMU to compete in the District 4 Conference competition on January 8. The following students have qualified for the State Conference, March 13th-15th:

Isobel Brown	JJ Huff
Amber Myers	Jacob Billau
Kasey Ryan	Emily Morris
Linda Caruso	Austin Hyatt
Averey Tressler	Lexi Mathews

Congratulations to these students and DECA Advisor, Mrs. Pechaitis!

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Blood Drive: On January 14, the NHS had their second blood drive in the multi-purpose room. It was a tremendous success with over 56 pints donated. Congratulations to our NHS students and this year's advisor, Mr. Masterson. Our final blood drive during this school year will be on May 5.

MICHIGAN MERIT EXAM

All schools in the State of Michigan will be required to administer the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), which will include a free ACT test for high school juniors. This new state assessment was signed into law by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm in 2006, replacing the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) assessments at the high school level.

Implementing the MME means that all 11th graders will take the state assessment test on March 10-12th. It will provide students with a regular ACT score report that they can use to apply to a college or university. Students also will be able to use the MME to qualify for a Michigan Promise Scholarship to help pay for their costs in attending a state university, community college or a technical/ trade school.

The MME is made up of the national ACT and WorkKeys tests in mathematics and reading, plus additional tests created here in Michigan in the areas of mathematics, science, and social studies. MME testing is divided into three parts. The ACT will be administered on March 10, 2009, while the WorkKeys and Michigan mathematics tests will be administered in the morning on March 11, 2009. The Michigan science and social studies tests will be given in the morning of March 12, 2009. Make-up tests are scheduled for exactly two weeks later. Britton-Macon Area School will administer the test to ALL JUNIORS at our school. Lunch will be provided for students on March 10th as they will be testing in the afternoon and will be released for the day by 1:30pm.

Free ACT Prep from MVHS is available on-line by visiting (www.michigan.gov/mme)

TARDY TO SCHOOL

During the 2007-08 school year, our middle/high school data for tardies in all class periods for our students were an all-time high totaling 2,100! Over 50% of these tardies were 1st hour-getting to school on time. Our data following the end of our 1st semester (January 7, 2009) decreased our overall numbers to 740 tardies (1-7 hours). Again, 50% of this year's tardies are for 1st hour!

Please understand there is no such thing at BMAS as an "excused" tardy. Students are either tardy or not. Therefore, when a student arrives late to school first hour, he/she is tardy. Future employment bosses will often not care why they are late to work, but they will care that they are late to work.



Hopefully, you will agree with us that the middle/high school years are the best time to learn the concept of natural consequences. Our new tardy policy is the following for each separate class period:

- 1st tardy- Classroom teacher verbal warning
- 2nd tardy- Classroom teacher verbal warning
- 3rd tardy- Administration verbal warning
- 4th tardy- administrative assigned 30 minute after school detention (2:50-3:20pm)
- 5th tardy- administrative assigned 60 minute after school detention (2:50-3:50pm)
- 6th tardy- administrative assigned 90 minute after school detention (2:50-4:20pm)
- Etc.

Students need to learn, now, to be on time, and parents' effort to excuse the tardiness, in the long run, sends the wrong message. If we expect students to follow these and other rules and let them learn the natural consequences when they fail, it is amazing how soon they learn to conform to normal expectations and rules. Thank you for your understanding and support on this issue.

BRITTON MACON MS/HS 2009 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Thurs.	2/12	Parent/Teacher Conferences Students dismissed at 11:24, Conferences 12:30-3:30/4:30-7:30 Jr./Sr. Attend Vo-Tech in P.M.
Fri.	2/20	Mid-Winter Break – No School
Wed.	2/25	5th, 6th, MS, HS, & Alumni Band Concert – 7:00 P.M.
Fri.	2/27	Winterfest
Mon.	3/9	8th Grade Curriculum Night 6:00 P.M.
Thurs.	3/19	Cabaret– 7:00 p.m.
Thurs.	3/20	End of Third Nine Weeks
M-F	3/23-3/27	6th Grade Camp
Thurs.	3/26	Family Reading Night – 6:00 – 7:30 P.M.
Fri.	4/3	Last Day of School – Spring Break begins at 3:00
Mon.-Fri.	4/6-4/10	Spring Break
Mon.	4/13	School resumes
Sat.	4/18	Prom
Thurs.	4/30	Elementary Spring Musical 7:00 P.M.
Tues.	5/5	Choir Concert - 7:30 P.M.
Thurs.	5/7	Middle School / High School Academic Awards - 6:30 P.M.
Sat.	5/9	Dinner Theatre– 6:00 P.M.
Tues.	5/12	Band Concert - 7:30 P.M.
Thurs.	5/14	Senior Awards Dinner – 6:30 P.M.
Tues.	5/19	Band Banquet – 6:30 P.M.
Mon.	5/25	Memorial Day – No School
Wed.	5/27	Last day for Seniors
Fri.	5/29	Graduation at 7:00 P.M.
Thurs.-Mon.	6/4-6/8	Semester Exams
Mon.	6/8	Last Day for Students – School dismissed at 11:24 AM
Mon.	6/8	End of Second Semester

THE MICHIGAN PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

The Michigan Promise Scholarship (public Act 479 of 2006) signed by Governor Granholm on December 21, 2006, provides up to \$4,000 to high school graduates for successfully completing two years of postsecondary education beginning with the high school graduating class of 2007.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a Michigan resident.
- Students from the high school graduation class of 2008 and beyond need to take the MME to qualify for the Michigan Promise Scholarship.
- Enroll at an approved postsecondary institution in Michigan or a military service academy within two years of becoming a high school graduate (two-year period would be extended for service in armed forces or Peace Corps).
- Complete the postsecondary education requirements (associate's degree, etc.) within four years of initial enrollment at the postsecondary institution.
- Achieve a cumulative college grade point average of 2.5 (except for students completing vocational education programs that do not record grades).
- Be a high school graduate or have passed the GED or any other graduate equivalency exam approved by the State Board of Education.
- Certify his or her eligibility for a scholarship.
- Meet all other eligibility criteria.

Scholarship Amounts

- Students who receive qualifying scores on the MME may receive up to \$1,000 per academic year for each of their first two years of college enrollment and up to \$2,000 after successful completion of two years of postsecondary education with at least 2.5 GPA (associate's degree, two-year certificate, vocational education program or 50% of the academic requirements for a bachelor's degree).
- Students who do not receive qualifying scores on the MME may receive up to \$4,000 after successful completion of two years of post-secondary education with at least a 2.5 GPA (associate's degree, two year certificate, vocational education program or 50% of the academic requirements for a bachelor's degree).
- Students completing a vocational training program requiring less than two years to complete may be eligible for a prorated scholarship amount.

For More Information

For more information on the Michigan Promise scholarship, contact the Office of Scholarships and Grant's toll-free number at 1-888-4-GRANTS (888-447-2687) or email ogs@michigan.gov. For more information on the MME, contact the Michigan Department of Education Office of Educational Assessment & Accountability's toll-free number at 1-877-560-8378 or email oeaa@michigan.gov.

SELECTIVE SERVICE INFORMATION

This is an important reminder for 17-18 year old young men. Federal law requires that you register with Selective Service within 30 days of your 18th birthday. When you register, you stay eligible for federal student loans, federal job training and federal jobs.

Registering is no big deal.

- You may register online at www.sss.gov
- You may fill out the card you will receive in the mail, put a stamp on it, and mail it back to the Selective Service.
- You may go to the nearby post office and fill out the form there.

But, remember, it is important to do it within 30 days of your 18th birthday.

SENIOR EVENTS, DATES & DEADLINE CALENDAR FEBRUARY - JULY 2009

Please mark on your calendar these important dates for seniors to remember. Better yet, post this page on your home refrigerator!

March

March 1.....FAFSA Form (Financial Aid) deadline (forms available January 1)
March 28LISD scholarship deadline
End of March (TBA).....Graduation Announcement distribution during lunch period

April

April 1.....Yearbook orders must be submitted to Jostens (Mr. Spencer)
April 10.....Research and collect elementary, MS and HS photos
April 10.....Deadline for Community Foundation Scholarship applications

May

May 1.....Mr. Easley speaks to seniors about year-end events and parent letters sent home
May (mid)...Distribution of cap & gowns/graduation announcements during lunch period
May 14.....Senior Awards Dinner
May 26 & 27.....Senior Final Exams
May 27.....Last day for Seniors
May 29.....Graduation 7:00 P.M.

June

June 15.....Final transcripts sent to colleges if requested

July

July 1...Scholarship checks mailed to colleges after appropriate documentation is received

POST SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS \$\$\$\$

Our senior students have been very blessed to have the continued support of our past alumni. The Britton-Macon Area School Education Foundation officers and alumni volunteers have many organized meetings to help finance post-secondary education costs for our graduating seniors. Just locally, there are over 20+ community scholarships well over \$20,000 for this year's graduating seniors. The deadline for all of these scholarship applications will be April 17th. As your son or daughter's Principal, I would highly recommend for each senior to apply for all of these scholarships. Our counseling secretary, Mrs. McMullen, can help you if you have any questions.

FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE....

Curriculum Night

The three main differences between high school and middle school are the following: 1. Permanent Records— 9th grade begins the reality process of high school transcripts that employers and university admissions request. 2. Students become more responsible for self. Parents and the school are putting more responsibility on the student and less responsibility is on the parent. 3. Making more choices, such as course selections, extracurricular activities, drivers license, social issues, etc. For the class of 2011 and beyond, graduation requirements for the first time in Michigan history are now largely determined by the state Department of Education and are much more rigorous than requirements for previous classes, especially in mathematics and science. These changes recognize the type of education students need to be successful in our changing global economy.

On **Monday, March 9th**, at 6:00pm, we will be hosting a "Curriculum Night" for our 8th grade students and parents to help with the transition process from middle school to high school. Items that will be presented include student class scheduling options, 8th grade student MEAP results and new Michigan Merit Curriculum expectations. This information will hopefully help begin the freshman year off on the right note! This information will be shared by school administration, the guidance counselor and teaching staff. Please mark this important date on your calendar. We will host this Curriculum Night in our new cafetorium starting at 6:00 PM.

6th Grade Camp-

This year's 6th grade camp will be held on **March 23-27** at Kimball Camp Y.M.C.A. Nature Center in Reading, Michigan. This is an outdoor environmental camp that provides a valuable experience to all of our current 6th grade students. Camp Kimball will be hosting a student/parent meeting on **February 23rd @ 6:00 pm**. Details will be shared at this time for this year's camp. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Peggy Musielewicz at 451-4581 ext. 245 or by email at peggy.musielewicz@britton-macon.us.

BRITTON-DEERFIELD (BD) ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

Both BMAS and Deerfield school boards have supported expansion of our MS/HS volleyball and basketball teams (boys & girls). Both schools will combine as one team starting next fall.

New Athletic Coaching Staff Members:

Coach Lutz- Our new BD varsity football coach, DJ Lutz, was recently hired and has been supervising an off-season strength training program for our 6-12 grade students. Coach Lutz has a wealth of football coaching and playing experience. The past two football seasons, he was the head junior varsity football at Bedford HS. Coach Lutz also played college football at Defiance College (1999-2003) and quarterbacked the Bedford Kicking Mules his senior year. Anyone interested in playing football this fall should contact Coach Lutz at 734-735-0310. Strength training sessions are Monday-Thursday from 3-4:00pm.

Coach Hartle- Katie Hartle will be our new varsity head track coach for our boys and girls teams. Her husband, Adam, will be her voluntary assistant coach of our track program. Both Katie and Adam ran track at Siena Heights University.

Coach Kapnick- Keith Kapnick will be this year's varsity softball coach. He was a volunteer assistant coach with the varsity last year.

Varsity Spring Practice for baseball, softball and track officially begins on Monday, March 9th.

Middle School Track Practices will begin following spring break on Monday, April 13th.

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER SCHOOL

Last June 2008, BMAS hosted a pilot summer Math course for our high school students. What a success! Twenty-eight out of twenty-nine students completed this course and earned a ½ high school graduation credit in math.

This summer, we are offering two summer school courses - Math and English - for our high school students. We encourage students to enroll in one or both summer classes for either credit recovery or preparing students for the new mandated Michigan Merit Curriculum.

The following is information on both summer school classes:

Math (Algebra) Summer Course offering;

Dates: June 10-30, 2009

Time: 8am-noon

Location: Britton-Macon Area School, Room #5

English (earn credit for either English 9, 10, or 11) Summer Course offering:

Dates: July 8-28, 2009 (check dates)

Time: 8am-noon

Location: Britton-Macon Area School, Room #2

If you have any questions, please contact our high school counselor, Mr. Rickard, at 451-4581 ext. 226.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

Choir Concert

Our spring Middle and High School Choir concert will be on Tuesday, May 5th @ 7:30pm

Senior Tim Williams was selected for the third straight year to perform with the Michigan State Honors Men's Choir. Tim also was selected to attend the recent Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference in Washington DC.

Band Concerts

On Wednesday, February 25th, our 5th, 6th, MS and HS Bands will perform their annual Pre-Festival Concert (winter concert) in the Cafetorium.

MS Band Student Lock-In

On Saturday, February 14th, our Britton Band Booster will be hosting a lock-in (9am-9pm) for our middle school students. This lock-in will include two middle school schools from Hudson and Jonesville. The purpose of this lock-in is to focus on our Festival Music with individual section coaches and two accomplished guest conductors who are both adjudicators. There will also be games with prizes, open gym and movies.

HS & MS Band Festival

The high school band will perform on Saturday, March 7th at Jackson HS at 2:10pm. The MS 7/8 band will be performing on Saturday, March 14th at Adrian HS.

MS 7/8 Solo and Ensemble Festival

This year's 7-8th grade Solo and Ensemble will be held at Jonesville HS on Saturday, April 18th.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSITION SUMMER SCHOOL

Last July-August 2008, BMAS hosted a pilot summer transition course offering for our middle school students. Again, what a success! Out of the fifteen middle school students (6-8 graders) who enrolled in this 36 hour course, our supporting data has shown that these students have improved their basic skills tremendously!

This summer, we will again offer this summer transition opportunity to help next year's 6th, 7th and 8th grade students to prepare for their academic curriculum. The program will have an online component to help families navigate summer plans and still be able to offer their student a chance to get an edge on next year's challenges. There will be face-to-face sessions to allow students and a certified teacher to work together. The emphasis of the program will be on benchmarks for reading, writing and math skills. Classes will be held at BMAS in the media center and meet two days per week for a total of 36 instructional hours. Two sessions will be available for our students, either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday from July 20 to August 28. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Rickard at 451-4581, ext. 226.

BRITTON-MACON AREA SCHOOL MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER

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