

**NOTES FROM SECOND PTO MEETING
FOR FRESHMAN CLASS OF 2012**

October 2, 2008

(7PM in the BHS Auditorium)

- Nancy Wagman, 9th Grade PTO Co-Representative, opened the meeting, introduced Diane Lande, Dean of Class 2012
- Adelaide Ketchum, PTO Co-President, also gave a reminder about "Conversazione"
- Dean Lande introduced Assistant Dean Melanee Alexander, guidance counselors Rich Gorman and Nicole Brent, and then introduced herself in more detail:
- Her two children have both graduated high school
 - She was a teacher for many years
 - Being a parent of students gave her good perspective, which she summarized in the telling as "Confessions of a High School Administrator" or "Two Little Bears"
 - Kids run the gamut, earning everything from A to F ["E"]
 - One child can seem on track, another floundering, and then they can switch
 - Frustrations can mount, with your child, with teachers, with staff
 - A 24-hour cool-down period can be useful before firing off a heated email or phone call.
 - *Summary advice:*
 - Encourage your children to be their own advocates
 - Strive to find balance in your child's work load and activities; kids need balance -- they do not need to be doing a hundred activities or taking all AP to have great success
 - Keep in mind kids need to do their own work, although it is tempting to help them
 - Keep in mind high school is a long, full journey, and the BHS teachers and staff are ready to work hard with the students and parents to make it successful
 - These are your children's high school years (we parents had ours)
 - Encourage your children to be who they are – high school should be fun as well as demanding, and full of good memories
 - BHS website is an great source of information (www.bhs.brookline.k12.ma.us)
 - Back to school night is October 16
 - If you get a phone call or email about missed classes, check with your child, and monitor unexcused absences
 - "Open campus" is down the road – there will be more information on that as it approaches
- Q & A Period. Some highlighted information:
- First progress report ("IPR") is out late October. It will be handed out to students in homeroom. Dr. Weintraub will also call each parent (at their given main number).
 - Announcements will generally be posted on the website
 - When in doubt, have your child see his or her guidance counselor, and parents can also feel free to contact the guidance counselor; they are with the students for all 4 years
 - The role of homeroom teacher is not quite specified yet – program is new
 - For extra academic help:
 - Math Lab – Room 140 at 7:45 a.m.
 - Can also ask teachers; **all** teachers provide extra help
 - Obama/McCain books – they will be discussed more this month, likely in history class
 - A good amount of homework time is 2-3 hours/day
 - IPRs will reflect progress; a sample is on the website
 - Students have some flexibility to change classes thru the first semester of each year, although the sooner better. Once a grade is given, that grade remains.
 - BHS has no "Social Action" requirement, but academic credit can be given for community service
 - PSATs are not relevant this year
 - Freshman grades do count; grades from different levels are not "weighted", but the level is noted

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL FLYER HANDED OUT AT MEETING INCLUDED BELOW:

2008-2009 GRADING TIMELINE

Mid-Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
Online grade entry deadline	Mon., Oct. 6, 2008	Mon., Dec. 15, 2008	Thurs., Mar. 5, 2009	Thurs., May 14, 2009
Report Cards	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
Quarter Ends	Wed., Nov. 12, 2008	Wed., Jan. 28, 2009	Tues., April 7, 2009	Mon., June 22, 2009
Teacher completes online grading	Fri., Nov. 21, 2008	Fri., Feb. 6, 2009	Fri., April 17, 2009	Mon., June 22, 2009

Mid Year Exams – 1/23/09, 1/26/09, 1/27/09

Final Exams – 6/17/09, 6/18/09

Dates subject to change, depending upon school cancellations