



Blenheim District High School  
Home of the Bobcats  
August Newsletter



Principal: Mr. Mark Sherman

Vice-Principal: Mr. Murray Hunt

### Principal's Message

Hello one and all. The summer has flown by once again and hats off to our custodians, building services workers and local contractors for all their hard work in cleaning, rebuilding and upgrading our facility over the hot summer months. In addition to the seventeen new Smartboards we installed in the spring, we also had a major project of replacing windows – the front offices, cafeteria and breezeway hall. Out with the old inefficient single-pane windows and in with the new energy saving double glazed ones!

Registration will soon be upon us – see the notice below in the yellow box. The first day of classes is Tuesday September 6<sup>th</sup>, right after the Labour Day Holiday.

The first meeting of the BDHS School Advisory or Parents' Council takes place Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. in room 10. Parents, guardians and interested community members are invited to attend. With the success of last year's earlier Parent/Teacher Interview night, we will be maintaining this approach and the Fall session will be 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. This occurs before the overall mid-term reports, but after the interim reports for students who are at risk or are doing poorly.

We hope to see everyone out for registration this year and once again for your convenience, a debit machine is available both at registration and throughout the year. All the important dates and events are in the **Student Handbook Planner** which students receive on the first day of classes. For parents, a quick source is our **Dates to Remember** page that is always available and up-to-date on the school website @ <http://www.southkent.net/~bdhs/>.

M. Sherman  
Principal

### Registration

Tuesday, August 30, 2011

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Please pick up your timetable and be prepared to pay all fees. **Payment can be made by debit or cash only (no cheques are accepted).** A payment plan can be set up for families in need. Call the main office to make arrangements prior to registration.

Correct the enclosed Student Registration Verification form you will receive in the mail and bring it to registration with you.

### Opening Day, Tuesday, September 6, 2011

This is a full day of classes, beginning at 8:00 a.m., following the Regular Day Schedule. Students are expected to have a notebook, pen or pencil, as regular teaching will occur. Any student not attending on opening day risks being excluded from their classes, which may be overcrowded.

## Guidance Office

The Guidance staff encourages all Bobcats to make use of the resources available in our office.

### Course Load

Students in Grades 9-11 must take 8 courses or credits. Students are eligible for a “study period” only when they have completed 23 credits. Part-time programs are not conducive to appropriate preparation for post-secondary education and the work world. All BDHS students are expected to be full-time, with a minimum of three(3) courses per semester – any exception to this policy will need administrative approval.

We have worked diligently to fulfill student timetable requests. When necessary, substitutions have been made to create full-time timetables for every student. Some student choices have been wait listed because of mandatory class size caps. Students may request course changes, but these should all be finalized by the end of the first week of school.

NOTE: online and video courses do not appear on the timetable.

### College Information Night

College programs will be held at local colleges this fall. This is a valuable event for Grade 11 and 12 students who plan to pursue a college education.

St. Clair College in Chatham will host this event:

Monday, October 17 from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Ridgetown College will hold the same event:

Monday, October 17 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### University Information Night

This event is for Grade 11 and 12 students who plan to pursue a university education. It will be held on Tuesday, October 4 at Ursuline College School in Chatham at 6:30 p.m.

### Ontario Universities' Fair

October 14 - 16, 2011 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. All Ontario Universities will be represented at this event. Parents and students are welcome and admission is free. This is a worthwhile opportunity for senior students and parents to visit exhibits, attend information sessions, and learn about undergrad programs for all Ontario universities.

### Online Courses

The Lambton Kent Virtual Campus will again be offering selected Senior Credits online.

#### First Semester

CGW4U  
CHI4U  
ICS3U  
FSF3U  
MCT4C  
SPH4U

Canadian & World Issues  
Canada: History, Identity & Culture  
Computer Science  
French  
Math for College Tech  
Physics

#### Second Semester

BAT4M  
CHY4U  
ENG4C  
FSF4U  
MCV4U  
MDM4U  
ICS4U  
Accounting  
World History  
English  
French  
Calculus & Vectors  
Math for Data Management  
Computer Science

#### Both Semesters

EWC4U      English – Writers, Craft  
HSB4M      Challenge & Change in Society

Students may use computers at home or in the school to complete these courses. However, it is highly recommended that students have internet access at home. These courses may be very challenging and require students to be well-organized and self-disciplined. Online courses provide students with the opportunity to achieve credits not available in the classroom. Students interested in taking an online course should contact the Guidance Office. Further information is available at [www.lkdsb.net/program1/secondary/elearning/index.htm](http://www.lkdsb.net/program1/secondary/elearning/index.htm).

Video conferencing classes will be offered this year in French. Video conferencing classes are teacher-led and timetabled in specified periods. Multiple classrooms within the school board district will be connected to the host school. The courses which are available to BDHS students are FSF3U and FSF4U.

Online courses will start a few days after the start of the term. An orientation session will be held for students taking an online course.

#### Liaison Visits

A number of college and university representatives visit BDHS during the fall to conduct information sessions with Grade 11 and 12 students. Visit the Guidance Office to sign up for these valuable opportunities to explore post-secondary choices. Check your planner for more specific dates and times.

## Attendance Policy

Students are expected to stay in the classroom if the teacher does not arrive due to an emergency or unforeseen circumstance. A representative from the class is expected to report the situation to the office.

The Ministry of Education and Training states that 110 hours of classroom instruction is required for a single credit course. There are no partial credits granted for high absenteeism.

Students must make every effort to attend school punctually and regularly. Students should not miss class to do homework, avoid tests, or report for part time work. The only valid reasons for absence are:

- personal illness
- bereavement, family emergency
- important appointments or family commitments certified by the parent and approved by administration
- approved school activity (field trip, athletic contest, college and university visits)

Students who are 18 years of age or older may sign their own notes. They may sign out only for the same valid reasons applying to students younger than 18.

## Attendance Procedures

Sign In or Sign Out: Students **must** sign in at the main office when arriving at school if they have missed any classes. Students **must** sign out at the main office before leaving the school for any reason.

Sick at School: If you become ill at school, **DO NOT LEAVE SCHOOL without first reporting to the Main Office.** (eg. Sign Out) Any student who stays at home after lunch **must** have a parent/guardian phone the school that same afternoon (519-676-5485).

During the Day Planned Absences: If you are to be excused for a part of the day (e.g., doctor/dentist appointment) bring an authorized note to the Office, prior to 7:45 a.m. and obtain an “*Excused Slip*”. If/when you return to school on the same day, report to the Main Office to **Sign In**, and receive an “*Admit Slip*”.

Unplanned Absences: If a student is absent all, or any part of a day, a parent/guardian is to phone (676-5485) the school that day, or else the student is to bring a note:

- to the **Main Office**
- **on the day of his/her return to school**

#### All notes from home must include:

- the date(s) of the absence
- the reason for the absence
- signature of the parent/guardian

## Lates

1. Students are to be on time to class, which means in their seats and prepared for work.
2. Teachers are responsible for assigning initial consequences for lates. Repeated lates will be dealt with as follows:
  - **If less than 5 minutes** late, go directly to class and teacher will mark you late.
  - **If more than 5 minutes late**, report to the main office for a “late slip”.

1-2 lates	Teacher discusses punctuality with student and assigns appropriate consequences (kept after class)
3-4 lates	Teacher notifies parents/guardians
5 or more lates	Referral to administration and disciplinary action

## Subject Costs

Costs and supplies required by students taking particular subjects are all outlined below. We ask that, if at all possible, all of these costs be paid at registration while we are set up with sufficient secretarial service and composite receipts. As well, early payment ensures that students will be properly equipped and able to fully participate in classroom instruction right from opening day. We thank you for your consideration in this regard.

*All Lambton-Kent District School Board secondary students must pay a registration cost. This enables students to participate in clubs, intramurals, and athletic teams, attend extracurricular events, dances and to obtain a student card. The fee this year is \$30.00.*

- **Art** Students taking Grade 10 and 11 Art will be required to pay a \$10.00 fee. Grade 12 students pay a \$15.00 fee to cover the cost of supplies.
- **Business** Students enrolled in BAF3M1 will be required to purchase a workbook for \$25.00 to supplement course curriculum.
- **French** Students are encouraged to have a French-English/English-French dictionary. The Pocket Larousse Dictionary is recommended. All students must have a loose-leaf notebook.

### ● **Mathematics** *Get Prepared for Math Class!*

All students taking Math are to come prepared for instruction on the first day of classes.

The following materials will be required throughout the semester by all students:


- ∞ pens, pencils, and erasers
- ∞ a 3-ring binder specifically for Math
- ∞ a supply of lined paper
- ∞ a supply of graph paper
- ∞ a calculator
- ∞ a ruler

(Students taking MAT 1L1, MAT 2L1, or MFM 2P1 should have a ruler with both centimeter and inch markings.)

#### **Choosing a calculator for high school math:**

Students in all levels of math are required to provide their own calculators.

All students would benefit from having a fraction-capable scientific calculator.

To recognize a fraction-capable calculator, look for the  key.

Most students find that calculators with a two-line

display, like  are easiest to use.

- **Music** Musical instruments, reeds, oils, and other equipment will be supplied. Students are to have a 3 ring binder for class.
- **Physical & Health Education** Uniforms will be available at registration. The cost will be \$15.00 for shorts (optional if you own an appropriate pair of black shorts) and \$15.00 for T-shirts which are mandatory in all levels of Physical Education classes. Along with a uniform, students should also have a gym bag, white socks, light-soled shoes, deodorant and a towel. For outdoor classes during cold weather, each student should have a long-sleeved sweater and long pants available.

The cost for each course is as follows:

PPL2O1	\$30.00	Pool, Arena, Outdoor Education
PAF3O1	\$40.00	Pool, Fitness Club, Rock Climbing
PPL3O1	\$40.00	Golf, Curling, Pool, Arena

PLF4C1	\$40.00	Pool, Outdoor Education
PPL4O1	\$40.00	Golf, Curling, Pool, Canoeing, Arena
PSE4U1	\$40.00	Exercise Science Workbook

●Athletics

Due to the rapidly rising costs of athletics, BDHS will be charging a user fee for all sports. The cost is \$40.00 **per** major sport and \$30.00 **per** minor sport played.

Major Sports	Minor Sports
Basketball	Badminton
Football	Cross Country
Tennis	Curling
Volleyball	Golf
Rugby	

●Science

From the first day of classes onward, students are required to have the following supplies:

- Pens, pencils, eraser
- Scientific calculator
- Metric ruler
- 3 ring binder supplied with lined paper (exclusively for use in Science)

●Technological Studies

All students in senior courses should consider obtaining the basic instruments/tools pertaining to their area of interest/studies. Information on items required and sources of purchase may be obtained on opening day.

A \$2.00 fee for the rental of safety glasses will be charged to the students taking any course that begins with TMJ, TCJ, or TTJ. TGJ3M1 and TGJ4M1 students are asked to pay \$7.00 for supplies.

●Yearbook

Please place your order for the 2011-2012 BDHS Bobcat Yearbook during registration at a cost of \$45.00. After registration the cost will be \$50.00. The yearbook, once again, will be designed and compiled by the Yearbook classes.

Yearbooks last a life time and longer. A yearbook is an excellent way of remembering your High School years. Please place your order during registration.

●Graduation

June 2012 graduating students are asked to pay \$20.00 to cover graduation and gown costs.

●Bus Levy

\$5.00 is assigned to all students for use of the school's highway cruiser bus for the various field trips and sporting events. A number of staff have become certified to drive the bus to further lower costs associated with field trips.

●Locks & Lockers

Students will be assigned a lock and locker during registration. For the protection of both students and school supplies, students must use the school lock and specific locker provided to them. Remember, do not let anyone know your combination and do not share your locker. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen articles. Mark all valuables with some identifying symbol. **Do not take money to your Physical Education class; leave anything of value in your locked locker.** Replacement locks are available for \$5.00 in the main office.

**Outstanding Obligations**

Some students may have received an outstanding obligation call. If you have not yet fulfilled last year's responsibilities for items such as textbooks or library books, or if you feel that an error has been made, please come to the main office prior to registration to clear up any discrepancy. ***These outstanding obligations must be cleared up before you can register at BDHS or any other high school.***

## Synrevoice

To communicate between BDHS and parents, the office will continue using the automated call home system called Synrevoice. This computerized system will inform parents of a student's absence during the school day. Parents are still expected to call the school on the day of the absence or send a note, explaining the absence.

## Immunizations for Teens

A booster for tetanus and diphtheria is needed ten years after the preschool booster, usually between ages 14 and 16. The recommended vaccine is called Adacel ®. This vaccine is publicly funded for all adolescents. It has added protection against whooping cough, or Pertussis.

Ontario students are required by law to have up-to-date immunization or a valid exemption on file with Chatham-Kent Public Health to attend school.

For routine immunization, please visit your family physician or a walk-in clinic. Nurses will be available for immunization record updates, and to provide boosters on August 30, 2011 between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM at Blenheim District High School. To book your appointment or update records contact the vaccine team at 519-355-1071 Ext. 5900

Notify the Public Health Unit at  
519-355-1071 Ext. 5900  
or visit our website at:



<https://www.chatham-kent.ca/vaccinations/>  
like us on facebook <http://www.facebook.com/CKPHU>

## Dates to Remember



Aug. 30	Registration Day
Sept. 6	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of School
Sept. 16	Picture Day
Sept. 26	P A Day
Oct. 4	University Information @ JMSS
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving
Oct. 14	Interim Report
Oct. 14-16	University Fair in Toronto
Oct. 19	Grad Information Night
Oct. 17	College Information Program
Oct. 21	P A Day
Oct. 25	Parent/Teacher Interviews
Nov. 2	Take Our Kids to Work
Nov. 11	Midterm Report Card
Nov. 25	P A Day