



August 9, 2017

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Hopefully this letter finds you enjoying the leisure and warmth of our remaining summer days. We at the high school have been enjoying our summers while also preparing for the 2017-2018 school year. Shortly our auditorium, fields, hallways, and classrooms will be filled again with the sounds of students and staff eager and curious about the school year ahead. Our first day of the new school year, Wednesday, August 30th, will arrive before we know it.

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about me and my background. My name is Brian O'Connell and I am extremely excited to be the new principal at Bow High School. Prior to beginning at BHS, I was an assistant principal for five years at Timberlane Regional High School in Plaistow, NH and a mathematics teacher for seven years at Oyster River High School in Durham, NH. I am New Hampshire born, raised, and educated having grown up in Keene and graduating from Keene High School in 2000. After high school, I moved on to the University of New Hampshire where I earned a B.S. in Mathematics Education in 2004, a M.Ed. in Secondary Education in 2005, and an Ed.S. in Administration and Supervision in 2014.

For me, education is the family business. My father will be beginning his 40th year this fall as elementary school teacher in the Monadnock Regional School District. My aunt, godmother, and sister are all teachers. My lovely wife will be beginning her 11th year as an English Teacher at Bedford High School. Education has always been, and will continue to be, an integral part of my life and who I am. My passion is working with students, encouraging them to take risks and explore new opportunities, guiding them through their mistakes and celebrating their achievements. My goal as the principal of Bow High School is to continue to build upon all the excellence achieved by the students and staff while ensuring that BHS continues to be at the forefront of education in the state of New Hampshire. Learning has and will continue to change as we move forward in the 21st century; we must adapt and evolve to ensure our students have the skills and support to achieve success in high school and beyond.

I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know many students and families from the Bow and Dunbarton communities over the upcoming months. As a child, some of my fondest memories are attending games and performances with my father at the schools he taught and coached at. I am excited that I will have the opportunity to create similar memories for my daughter, Lillywhite Lyanna, who will certainly be joining me at many of the events at BHS. Please feel welcomed to chat with me and/or Lilly when you see us around.

In preparation for the 2017-2018 school year, please take the time to read through this letter and the accompanying letters and forms. Links for all letters and forms can be found on the high school's website, bhs.bownet.org, and the [Fall Packet 17.18](#) webpage. Please print, review, and sign all forms. Extra copies of all letters and forms will be available at Bow High School, the Baker Free Library in Bow, and the Dunbarton Public Library. Students will need to turn in completed forms no later than advisory on the first day of school. We will be running a modified Monday Schedule on the first day of school so all 8 class periods and advisory can meet. Please note athletic, parking permit, and Early Release/Late Arrival/Open Campus forms must be completed prior to the start of school. Please see the checklist of all forms for each grade at the end of this letter.

Change is synonymous with a new school year. Students and staff are set to begin new classes, foster new relationships, and try new opportunities. Some highlights as we look towards the new school year include:

- The Class of 2018 will be the first graduating class from Bow High School in which our students from Dunbarton were Falcons for all four years of high school. The Class of 2018 is uniquely special for being able to represent the unity of two communities and be able to serve as role models in positive collaboration.
- We are happy to welcome some new faces to Bow High School. Working hard this summer has been our new Athletic Director Mike Desilets. Joining our wonderful Special Education Department as case managers will be Daniel Chick and Mikel LaChapelle. Bringing their innovation and creativity to our Art and Mathematics Departments respectively will be Steven Boufford and Taylor Whipple.
- This year marks the third year of our 1:1 Chromebook initiative, a critical component of the Bow School District's Technology Plan. All students in grades 9, 10, and 11 will have their own Chromebook. **Students, please remember to charge your Chromebooks daily.**
- At the high school we will be introducing Flex Time for all students. Flex Time will be built into the bell schedule Tuesday through Friday and will provide students with opportunities for support. Students will sign up for Flex Time each Monday during advisory. We are hopeful Flex Time will give us an opportunity to increase personalized instruction and support for our students.
- As the school year unfolds, SAU 67 will be examining school start times. The high school will be exploring if it would be beneficial to students, families, and staff to transition to a later start of the school day. We will be exploring the positives and negatives of such a change and will be communicating our research and any potential changes to our communities. Please feel welcomed to share your thoughts with me about start times.
- Throughout the district our educators will be continuing their work on implementing the curriculum by reviewing and revising course competencies as needed. In addition faculty at the high school will continue to develop and utilize Performance Tasks for all courses. We will also be exploring ways to assess BHS students on the "soft skills" that students need for success in the 21st century and outside of the classroom. Soft skills can include a student's study habits, work ethic, accountability, and ability to communicate effectively. Strong soft skills are critical for student success beyond high school.

The opening weeks of a new school year can be incredibly busy. Please review the following list of dates and events taking place as the school year begins.

- Wednesday, August 9th – Football begins
- Monday, August 14th – Fall Athletics begin
- Thursday, August 24th at 1 pm and Friday, August 25th and 10 am – Open House for Incoming Freshmen and New Students
- Wednesday, August 30th – First Day of School
- Thursday, August 31st and Friday, September, 1st – School Picture Days
- Thursday, August 31st at 6 pm – Open House for All Parents and Guardians
- Monday, September 4th – Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
- Friday, September 15th – Last day for \$50 Yearbook orders
- Wednesday, September 27th at 11 am – BHS College Fair

I am excited and humbled to be the new principal of Bow High School and am looking forward to working with the students, families, and communities of Bow and Dunbarton. Please enjoy the remaining weeks of summer break. I look forward to seeing everyone on August 30th.

Respectfully,



Brian O'Connell
Principal
Bow High School

Information for All Students – Please click [HERE](#) for all letters/forms/information

- Letter from Dr. Dean Cascadden, Superintendent of Schools for SAU 67
- Letter from BHS School Counseling Department
- Student Handbook
 - Students and families should familiarize and review the general student information and school policies that are found in the Student Handbook. The Student Handbook contains useful references and a resources section in addition to being a calendar planner that students are encouraged to use. Each BHS student will receive a hard copy on the first day of school.
- [Infinite Campus Updates](#)
 - All parents and guardians should log into Infinite Campus and update all contact information, specifically email and phones contacts. Information can be accessed and updated by completing the following:
 - Log into Infinite Campus;
 - Click on the tab on the left labeled Family Members;
 - Review and update contact information, specifically email and phone contacts.
- [Bow High School Athletics](#)
 - Please click on the link to be brought to the Bow High School Athletics website. The website will contain digital copies of the BHS Athletics Handbook and the district Co-Curricular Policy in addition to schedules, directions to schools, tournament dates, and other relevant information.
- [Bow High School Performing Arts](#)
 - Please click on the link to be brought to the Bow High School Performing Arts website. The website contains information about the Performing Arts programs at BHS including the schedule of performances, the Disney Trip, and Tri-M.
- [School Picture Day](#)
 - School pictures will be taken on Thursday, August 31st and Friday, September 1st. Students will be told in advisory on the first day school when they are scheduled to have their picture taken. Pictures are required for all students and staff for campus security. All students and staff are expected to have their school ID cards with them on campus at all times.
 - Bob McGrath Photography will be the photographer used for School Pictures. Parents/guardians will be sent an individualized link so they may view their student's portrait gallery and select their preferred portrait package. No money is due prior to or on School Picture Day.
- SAU 67 2017-2018 School Calendar
- [The Falcon's Nest Nutrition Program](#)
 - Included is general information, calendar, free and reduced lunch program information, food service prepayment form, and the August/September 2017 menu.
- Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy
- Driver Education Application and Information
- Bow PTO Information and Voluntary Dues Form
- Dunbarton PTO Information and Voluntary Dues Form
- Bow POPS (Parents of Performing Students) Information
- [Yearbook Information – Available beginning August 30th](#)
- Bell Schedule – Opening Day – Wednesday, August 30th

Grade 12 – Checklist of Forms – Please click [HERE](#) for all forms

All forms must be completed and signed prior to Grade 12 students applying for a parking permit. Parking permit distribution for Grade 12 students will begin on Monday, August 14th. Grade 12 students who do not intend to apply for a parking permit must turn in all forms on the first day of school, Wednesday, August 30th in advisory.

- Emergency Information Form
 - This must be updated annually for all families to be submitted to Leslie Bean, BHS School Nurse.
- Early Release/Late Arrival/Open Campus Form
 - Must be completed prior to a student applying for a parking permit and no later than the first day of school, Wednesday, August 30th.
 - Please review eligibility requirements listed on Early Release/Late Arrival/Open Campus form closely.
- BHS Parking Permit Registration Form
 - Students applying for a parking permit must have all previous fees and school balances paid in full. In addition students must turn in completed and signed Emergency Information and Early Release/Late Arrival/Open Campus forms.
 - All students must have the following in hand (all must be current and up to date) when applying for a parking permit:
 - New Hampshire driver's license,
 - Vehicle registration,
 - Proof of Insurance (insurance card, copy of policy, etc.),
 - \$40 permit fee.
 - Students who do not receive a parking permit may park in the "dirt lot" for no fee.
- Acceptable Use Contract
 - Must be completed by Grade 12 students new to BHS only.
- Naviance/Common Application Instructions

Grade 11 – Checklist of Forms – Please click [HERE](#) for all forms

All forms must be completed and signed prior to Grade 11 students applying for a parking permit. Parking permit distribution for Grade 11 students will begin on Monday, August 21st. Grade 11 students who do not intend to apply for a parking permit must turn in all forms on the first day of school, Wednesday, August 30th in advisory.

- Emergency Information Form
 - This must be updated annually for all families to be submitted to Leslie Bean, BHS School Nurse.
- Early Release/Late Arrival Form
 - Must be completed prior to a student applying for a parking permit and no later than the first day of school, Wednesday, August 30th.
 - Please review eligibility requirements listed on Early Release/Late Arrival form closely.
- BHS Parking Permit Registration Form
 - Students applying for a parking permit must have all previous fees and school balances paid in full. In addition students must turn in completed and signed Emergency Information and Early Release/Late Arrival forms.
 - All students must have the following in hand (all must be current and up to date) when applying for a parking permit:
 - New Hampshire driver's license,
 - Vehicle registration,
 - Proof of Insurance (insurance card, copy of policy, etc.),
 - \$40 permit fee.
 - Students who do not receive a parking permit may park in the "dirt lot" for no fee.
- Acceptable Use Contract
 - Must be completed by Grade 11 students new to BHS only.

Grade 10 – Checklist of Forms – Please click [HERE](#) for all forms

All forms must be completed, signed and turned in on the first day of school, Wednesday, August 30th, in advisory.

- Emergency Information Form
 - This must be updated annually for all families to be submitted to Leslie Bean, BHS School Nurse.
- Acceptable Use Contract
 - Must be completed by Grade 10 students new to BHS only.

Grade 9 – Checklist of Forms – Please click [HERE](#) for all forms/information

All forms must be completed, signed and turned in on the first day of school, Wednesday, August 30th, in advisory.

- Freshmen/New Student Orientation Open House
 - Thursday, August 24th from 1pm – 3 pm and Friday, August 25th from 10 am – 12 noon
- Emergency Information Form
 - This must be updated annually for all families to be submitted to Leslie Bean, BHS School Nurse.
- Acceptable Use Contract
 - Must be completed by all Grade 9 students.
- 1:1 Chromebook Initiative Booklet
- 1:1 Chromebook Permission Form
 - Please review the information booklet and sign and return the permission form.
- Grade 9 School Supplies Checklist
- Grade 9 Humanities Summer Reading List