Dear Parents & Guardians,

As we reflect on all the wonderful programs and activities we have at Bergenfield High School, our learning community would like to wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season.

Bergenfield High School students and faculty are proud to share that, for the 4th year in a row, our high school was recognized by US News and World Report as one of the best high schools (top 4%, #637 out of 22,000 public schools) in the nation based on college readiness, moving up 70 places from last year. For the eighth straight year, Bergenfield High School continues to be recognized by the Washington Post as one of America’s Most Challenging Schools. In 2015, TheBestSchools.org recognized Bergenfield High School as one of 50 Inspiring Schools Meeting the Challenge, and, in 2014, BHS was named as one of America’s Top 500 Public High Schools by the Daily Beast through Newsweek Magazine.

Our philosophy at BHS is to build relationships with our students, while challenging each and every student academically. This year, we have 477 students enrolled in AP classes and 991 tests will be taken in May; 40% of our total student body is currently enrolled in at least one AP course. Of the students in our class of 2020, 73% have taken an AP class during their four years at BHS. Bergenfield High School had an overall total of 88 students receive AP Scholar recognition through the College Board; these awards include: 19 AP Scholars with Distinction, 13 AP Scholars with Honors, and 4 National AP Scholars. Letters will be sent home in January identifying students whom the College Board identifies as having AP Potential through their PSAT performance from this fall. We continue to offer dual enrollment courses through agreements with FDU, Rutgers, Syracuse, and BCC, through which our students receive college credits for passing our college preparatory courses and exams. We have 2019 graduates at Princeton University, LSU, Michigan State University, Boston University, and Stevens Institute of Technology, among many others. We are proud of the Class of 2019 graduates!

Bergenfield High School – A Learning Community Unlike Any Other!

While our students continue to flourish academically, the high school administration is particularly proud of the level of engagement that many of our students have shown through service to the community. Our Student Congress partnered with Community Blood Services to lead a blood drive on campus. Members of the Class of 2023, along with members of the football and cheerleading teams, assisted the Emmanuel Christian Church in Hackensack to serve Thanksgiving dinner and drop off warm clothes and blankets. The Interact and Thrive Clubs wrapped over 100 boxes of gifts for impoverished children in Asia, Africa, and South America. The RISE Club donated toys, games, books, and clothing to Snowflakes for Social Services of Bergenfield; the RISE Club also played host for the Mayor’s Senior Citizen Holiday Party. Our music department has performed holiday music at various town activities, spreading peace and joy to all. Indeed, the spirit of paying it forward is strong at BHS!

Happy Holidays
From Bergenfield High School

Dates to Remember...

• Thursday, December 19
  Holiday Concert – 1:15 & 8:00 pm

• Friday, December 20
  Full day of school

• Monday, December 23 through Wednesday, January 1
  Winter Recess

• Wednesday, January 8
  Parent-Teacher Conferences
For the seventh straight year, Bergenfield High School has signed on with the College Board to give all juniors the SAT for free during the school day on March 4, 2020. All students who are taking the SAT are encouraged to review the College Board website and access free Khan Academy resources to prepare for the SAT, making it easier than ever for all students to achieve their personal best. These online resources generate individualized practice recommendations that meet students right where they are in their learning and help them grow. Please access these resources at https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep-sat. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Rob Ragasa at rragasa@bergenfield.org. Along with the online resources, Bergenfield High School will continue to offer SAT prep classes after school and in the evenings at no cost to students. If your child is interested, or if you would like more information, contact Mr. Ragasa at rragasa@bergenfield.org; the next prep session will start in January.

The STEM program is in its twelfth year with 55 students involved. Our STEM advisors are excited about the most rigorous curricular program that we offer and they look forward to the ten graduating seniors’ final thesis presentations in May. Program coordinator Mrs. Thadani held an informational meeting for parents of current 8th graders and over 40 parents attended.

Please encourage your children to get involved in after school activities or clubs and to take advantage of the various resources available to help them achieve success. The library/media center is open daily after school from Monday to Friday for students to conduct research and study. The Peer Transition program is a peer leadership program in which junior and senior Peer Leaders are assigned to groups of freshmen to help ease the transition into high school. Our Quiz Bowl team just kicked off its competition season and is off to a great start. You can find the 2019 edition of Collage, our literary arts magazine, on the BHS website and our school newspaper Bear Facts continues to be one of the best school newspapers in the state. The Dance Team just held a successful fundraiser, the 5th annual Dancing with the Staff, and is preparing to host the Dance Team Union Regional Competition on January 25th. Students in the BHS Drama Club have been working hard and having fun working on various skits and plays. Our Model UN, DECA, and Academic Decathlon teams are preparing for tournaments in 2020 and our Debate Team just held a tournament on Friday, December 6th. The 2019 edition of Crossroads, our school yearbook, earned a statewide and national silver medal rating critique from the Garden State Scholastic Press Association. Our RISE students continue to promote peace and unity at BHS. There is a great saying in which I believe strongly: “There is a big difference between going to school and being a student. Going to school means you’re enrolled. Being a student means you’re involved. Get involved!”

The BHS boys and girls basketball teams will be keeping busy during the holiday break! The boys team will be playing in the Jack Reilly Fort Lee Holiday Tournament and our girls basketball team will be playing in the Hornet Hoopfest at Passaic Valley High School. Our wrestlers will once again participate in the BCCA George Jockish Holiday Wrestling Tournament at Hackensack High School on December 27th and 28th. Please check the athletics website at www.bergenfield.org for times and schedules. Our bowling and winter track teams have been working hard for their upcoming seasons. Come out and show your Bear Pride for our student athletes.

Please support our music department by attending the Holiday Concert on Thursday, December 19th, at 1:15 or 8:00 pm. Tickets may be purchased from BHS music students or online. General admission tickets are $5.00, and senior citizen and student tickets are $3.00 for either performance. To order tickets online, please visit http://bergenfield.ludus.com.

There will be a full day session on Friday, December 20th and school will be closed for winter recess from Monday, December 23rd through Wednesday, January 1st.

Remember, our next parent conferences are on Wednesday, January 8th, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Once again, we are asking parents to make appointments with your children’s teachers for that evening through PTCfast.

A reminder to parents of seniors: any senior who needs summer school to graduate or has not completed his/her/their requirements will not be permitted to walk in the graduation ceremony.

The holiday season is a time to enjoy your family and spend time with the people who mean the most to you. It is extremely important to hug, love, and be supportive of your children. Tell them that you love them every day, and thank them for all the joy and pleasure they bring into your life. Have a wonderful holiday and know that the BHS staff enjoys working with your children.