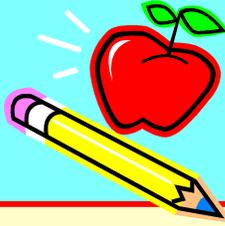




**SPARTAN  
EXPRESS**



**Broad Run High  
School**  
Ashburn, VA

**November 12, 2012**  
**Volume 1, Issue 11**

# Broad Run Newsletter

## From the Desk of Mr. Anderson

Grading, grading, grading: the only thing I don't miss about teaching is grading. Please work with Mr. Yarborough and the School Counseling Office (new title, it is no longer the Guidance Office) staff to make sure your grades are as accurate as possible. As we begin the second quarter, please review your website and grade book to make sure they are telling the story that you want them to tell.

When I get the proof of our faculty picture, I will let you know. I had quite a few inquiries about how to purchase a copy; when I get that information I will let you know.

The fall production was excellent. Mr. Willmot and the kids were fantastic. It was also nice to see former Spartan, Mr. Jason Bryant, (English dept) as a guest star.



## Bram Smith

**Quick Note:** Students and Test Strategies. Our students have been taught from elementary school (I see my wife's lesson plans and how she incorporates this with her third graders) on up to use test taking strategies such as marking out answers, jotting notes, etc., on tests and quiz papers. We need to encourage the use of these strategies here at BRHS as well. I'm all for saving paper and such, but students should be afforded their own tests to mark up as they see fit. Please don't limit our students' ability to use these skills by telling them they cannot mark on the test.

## Spartan Birthdays

- \*Joe Schwarz - November 14
- \*Karen Swanchara - November 15
- \*Deborah Jackson - November 17
- \*Kym Peacock - November 17



## Spartan Spotlight

This week, our Spartan Spotlight falls on Bram Smith. Mr. Smith is in his first year at BRHS, his first year in high school, and his first year as our Band Director. When you speak with Bram, you realize that music is his passion. Just ask him about his family's musical tree/history.

According to Bram, the best part of his summer vacation was the birth of his daughter. His hobbies and interests include golf and music. Bram is a third generation army bandmen. When asked what he likes best about Broad Run, he responded, "the people."

## SAFE

SAFE (Students in an Alternative and Focused Environment) is a program developed at Broad Run for students who are at risk of not graduating on time. Some are seniors who need seven or more credits to graduate; some are younger but have never earned a full complement of credits in any year. All SAFE students fall in the bottom fifth percentile. Many of the students have excessive absences leading to their failing grades and failing SOL scores. More than one-third of the students are Black or Hispanic; almost half were ESL or grew up in a household that had parents who speak a language other than English.

### SAFE Cont'd

A wide variety of methods are employed to improve the successes of the students in the program. Staff involved in the program includes a teacher from each of the four core areas, a leadership teacher, a counselor, and an administrator. Students are in classrooms with a cap of fifteen students. The teachers share a common duty period and meet on a weekly basis to share information, evaluate student progress, plan strategies, and deal with, as a team, any issues and concerns that arise. In addition to regular teacher-parent contact, Parents' Nights are held once every quarter. Serving as both mentors and advisors, teachers foster a more personal relationship with the students.

### SAFE Cont'd

In the inaugural year of the SAFE program (2005-2006) there were many successes.\* Students maintained an average GPA of 2.15 which was up from an average of 1.35 the year before, absences decreased from an average of 19.22 for the year to 15.78, and credits earned increased from 5.46 to 6.46. The final number of increased earned credits does not factor in that some seniors did not take a full load of credits. The greatest increase in GPA was earned by a senior who had a 1.23 GPA her junior year and earned a 3.42 her senior year. Decreases in absences included improvement such as 48 to 20 and 27 to 11 (and that 11 included time spent in a Fairfax JDC). In 2004 only 4 of our students earned 7 credits whereas in 2005 11 students earned 7 or more. Only three students out of the 22 who completed the program decreased in the significant numbers.

### This Week's Highlights

#### Monday

ERP/Red, White, and Blue sugar cookie day

#### Tuesday

STS Training at 12:30 and 1:15

#### Wednesday

Homeroom to distribute report cards/English 9 Field Trip

#### Thursday

STS Connections during Study Halls/IC Meeting

#### Friday

STS Connections during Study Halls

### Upcoming Events

**\*Academic Letter Ceremony at 7 pm**

**\*Thanksgiving Break (11/21-11/25)**



Happy Veterans Day