Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are off to a great start for second semester at Bremen High School. We are excited to get back to school and to helping our students to be their best. In this edition of the Parent Braves Bulletin, we will focus on the upcoming activities, events and happenings at Bremen during the third quarter. In addition, we will update you on some of the important data from the first semester. We have had a successful first semester at BHS in that it challenged our students and they succeeded in many areas. The goal is to provide great opportunities for all students so they can be well rounded young adults. It is important that we keep parents actively involved in this goal, together we will provide a great experience and create those opportunities for our students. Remember, the key is that we work together and keep focused on each student.

Each semester we take time to hold class meetings for all students during the first week of the semester. During these meetings in January, we discussed the importance of daily attendance and staying current in all classes by completing all homework and being ready to participate daily with class discussions. I am excited to announce that we had a 97% pass rate for all classes taken at Bremen for the first semester. We know that second semester these grades can fall off a bit, so we are reminding students that their daily effort is key to their overall success. Please continue to check PowerSchool weekly and discuss grades with your child. Your assistance with this makes a huge difference in the success of your child.

The first semester daily attendance numbers were 94.8% for our entire school. These numbers by class were 96% for freshmen, 95.7% for sophomores, 94.2% for juniors and 93.5% for seniors. These numbers all went up slightly from last year and that is good. The state has set a goal of 95% for all juniors and seniors according to ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). For the second semester, we are promoting 95% attendance for all juniors and seniors with the reward of not having to take finals if they reach that number. In order to reach that goal juniors can only miss 4 total days and seniors 3 total days. In addition, they will have to pass all their classes for the semester. We hope this attendance incentive will help motivate our students to improve both attendance and their overall grades for second semester.

School safety is always a priority of our overall goals at BHS. In order for us to be a safe, communication is always key. Part of the reason we provide a safe environment is due to our students and the great job they do of communicating concerns during the school day as well as outside of school. In addition, I truly appreciate our parent/guardians who communicate concerns with us as well as the Midlothian Police Department. When we are able to work together, we can identify and work through any concerns and make our school a safe place for all students and staff. Remember, it is always good to share safety concerns. So keep being active in your child’s life.

Hear Something, See Something, Say Something!

New door skins – Main Gym – Provided by DECA

As we are entering the last semester for our senior students it is important for each of them to stay the course and finish their senior year. With that as the focus, I want to encourage each of them to continue to meet with their counselor and finalize their individual plans for post high school. I want each senior student to have a clear plan that is thought out and able to be followed upon their graduation. In addition, we have multiple scholarships that are available for our seniors at BHS. These scholarships have applications that must be completed to be eligible. Please have your child talk with their counselor or me for additional information. The updated applications will be posted on the website in the coming weeks.
Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for Monday, February 11th from noon to 7:00 pm in the gym. This is a great opportunity to reengage with your child’s teachers and check on progress to this point. There is also time to make improvements with grades before the end of third quarter. Please plan to attend these conferences as it is important to the overall success of your child. In addition, we will again host a College and Career fair in the lower gym to assist with planning for beyond high school. Our counselors will be available to assist with questions you may have about your child’s future beyond high school. Hope to see you on this day!

Our next Braves Caravan is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6th immediately following our Honors Assembly. It will start at approximately 10:00 am in the IMC. This is a great opportunity to talk with our staff and see your child’s school in action. Bring a friend who has a child at Bremen and see us on this day. We want to share the great things going on at BHS.

The third quarter is very important as the weather is generally not good for outdoor activities. It is a great time to study and get off to a great start for the second semester. The great weather and fourth quarter will be upon us very soon. Help us to keep you child focused for the final 16 weeks of the school year. Make sure to contact your child’s counselor, teacher, any administrator, or me if we can be of any assistance. Together, we will help your child have a fantastic second semester.

Dr. Dave Kibelkis
Bremen Graduate Class of 1984

B-Great Students and their Words of the Week:

**Week 1:** Charlie Bennett-Brave  
**Week 2:** Karina Quirarte-Ambitious  
**Week 3:** Olawatobi Olaniyi-Obsevant  
**Week 4:** Gudalupe Pozos-Alert  
**Week 5:** Amber Kries-Resilient  
**Week 6:** Adrian Gallegos-Unique  
**Week 7:** Kevin Murray-Creative  
**Week 8:** Edith Martinez-Healthy  
**Week 9:** Brandon Daniels-Fierce  
**Week 10:** Jaquari Booker-Attentive  
**Week 11:** Tatayana Wilkins-Resourceful  
**Week 12:** Ahmad Smith-Thankful  
**Week 13:** Zoey Gurick-Giving  
**Week 14:** Sean Michael Juppe-Active  
**Week 15:** Jessica Garcia-Involved  
**Week 16:** Laila Powers-Perceptive  
**Week 17:** Mo Bettancourt-Unstoppable  
**Week 18:** Allyson Reed-Independent  
**Week 19:** William Bates-Assertive

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Did you know? Career Training while at Bremen High School

Bremen High School students are getting a head start on their future careers while in high school. New health care pathways programs have been developed in partnership with South Suburban College to give our students a jump start toward high demand health care careers. Starting in January students will begin taking TUITION FREE college classes at the South Suburban College’s Oak Forest College Center. Four healthcare pathways programs include courses to prepare students to become certified Emergency Medical Technicians, Community Health Care Workers, Phlebotomy, and EKG Technicians.

Renee M Mack  
Career Readiness Coordinator  
Bremen High School District #228  
Contact – 708-396-8140

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Field House progress as of January 2019 – Open summer of 2019

**Associate Principal – Matthew Meany**

Welcome back for the 2nd semester of the 2018-19 school year! The completion of our new facilities is in full swing with the anticipation to have it open for the 2019-20 school year. The new spaces will provide many great opportunities and experiences for our students. BHS has some important upcoming dates, please mark on your calendars.

- Wednesday, January 30th - School Improvement Day - Noon Dismissal  
- Honors Assembly, Wednesday, February 6th at 9:00 am  
- Braves Caravan, Wednesday, February 6th at 10:00 am  
- Monday, February 11th - Parent-Teacher Conference - No School  
- Tuesday, February 12th - Lincoln’s Birthday –
No School
- Wednesday, February 20th - School Improvement day - Noon Dismissal
- Monday, March 4th - Casimir Pulaski Day - No School
- Monday, March 25th through Friday, March 29th - Spring Break - No Classes

We will be hosting our second semester Parent Teacher conferences in the Main Gym on Monday, February 11th from 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Please continue to be involved in your student’s academic progress by checking the Parent Portal for up to date grades. The will be the final parent/teacher conference for the 2018-19 school year.

Eight Grade Night – held on Wednesday, January 16th

Graduation for the Class of 2019 is quickly approaching. Jostens, our Cap and Gown representatives, will be at BHS for the last time on Thursday, February 7th during all lunch periods. Cap and Gown is $27.00. After this date, you will need to make accommodations with Jostens and the price increases to $37.00. Our mandatory Senior Class meeting will be on Wednesday, April 17th at 9:00 am in the Main Gym. All seniors must attend!!! The graduation commencement exercises will be held at the Tinley Park Holiday Inn Convention Center on Tuesday, May 14th at 4:30 pm. This is a very important day for all senior students and their families. The actual ceremony should only take a little longer than an hour. Practice will begin at 9:15 am that morning at the Tinley Park Convention Center. Cap/Gown and graduation tickets will be passed out on Wednesday, May 8th during lunch periods. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, Matthew Meany, at 708-396-8102.

Assistant Principal – Jessica Rucinski

With the second semester under way, we are now just three months out from the official SAT test date for our Juniors. On October 10th, all Junior students took the PSAT/NMSQT assessment. This assessment serves as a pre-test for the SAT assessment that Juniors will take this April. Scores from the October test date show each student what they are doing well and what they should work on to prepare for the SAT and for college. Students were able to access their scores from this assessment in December via the College Board website at www.collegeboard.org. Additionally, students were provided a paper copy of their score report and their personal test booklet in their English class upon returning from winter break. If you have a child that is a Junior this year, now is a great time to discuss their score with them and set attainable goals for the official SAT test in April. The April SAT Test score is important as it impacts each student’s future plans. For this reason, we strive to provide every opportunity for our students to be successful as they prepare to take this upcoming assessment.

This year we will be offering 3 SAT Test Preparation Programs to our students free of charge. Programs are available for students during lunch/study hall time, after school, and in the evening to meet the diverse needs of our students. Additionally, one of the best resources that students have access to for prep, Khan Academy, is accessible online so that students can attain individualized prep when it is most convenient for them. Our test prep programs from Cambridge, College Board, and Khan Academy are all designed to increase test scores on the SAT exam and are individualized to meet the needs of each student. All programs will be up and running by the end of January and we are excited to assist each one of our Junior students with setting and achieving their goals on the SAT this year!

Winter Fest is coming! This year in place of our traditional Turnabout Dance our Student Council will be hosting Winter Fest on Saturday, January 26th from 7:00 pm -10:00 pm in the Main Gym. This festival style event will include a DJ and numerous games and activities for students to participate in throughout the evening. Wondering what all the hype is about? Check out the promotional video by clicking here: Winter Fest Promo Video.

Senior Luncheon held in November for local seniors

Our Braves continue to thrive in the community service arena! Our annual Food Drive, sponsored by NHS & Student Council, was held Nov. 26th-Dec.8th. Ms. Bogard, Ms. Chelepis, and Mr. Stephens orchestrated this fantastic
community service project with the help of our student body. All food collected during the drive is delivered to local food pantries. We are exceptionally proud of the combined efforts and generosity of our students, staff, and the entire Bremen community. Check out the impressive stats for this year’s food drive:

Over 5000 bags (which were generously donated by Berkots thanks to manager, Art Magana) delivered to front doors in Midlothian, Posen and Markham.

- 11,240 pounds of food collected and weighed officially, with hundreds of additional pounds collected after the end date of the drive.
- Over 130 student volunteers from NHS, Student Council, and a variety of other school clubs
- Over 600 service hours completed

Assistant Principal – Ed Sterling

**Course Selection Process**

The course selection process can be easily explained by dividing it into seven simple steps.

**STEP 1 – Elective Fair (December)**

Elective course teachers promote and explain their programs during the study halls.

**STEP 2 – Course Selection DVG (December)**

Counselors explain the course selection process to students during their English classes. All meetings will last approximately 20 minutes and will take place in the classroom.

**STEP 3 – Teacher Recommendation (December)**

Teachers will recommend all of their students for the next available class in their department. This recommendation will be based upon the student’s skill level, attitude, participation, and grades earned in the class.

**STEP 4 – Counselor Meetings**

Counselors will have a one on one meeting with each student. They will go over graduation requirements with each student and assist the students in picking classes for next year.

**STEP 5 – Course Request Input Online**

After the student meets with the counselor he or she will input all of the classes they have selected for next year into PowerSchool through the Parent Portal. This process will be completed by the end of January.

**STEP 6 – Parent Approval**

After your child has met with his counselor and has him put his course selections into power school each parent has an opportunity to review the courses and make any suggestions for changes. This has to be completed by the end of January.

**STEP 7 – Courses Locked In**

All course selections will be locked-in by February 8. The next step in the process is to hire teachers to teach all of the classes chosen by the students.

**ALL SCHOOL TESTING April 9, 2019**

Bremen’s all-School Testing Day. No classes will be in session. The day will begin at 7:45 am, so Students who normally have a 7:00 am class and ride a bus will need to be at their bus stop at the 8:00 am pick up time. These times can be found on the schools web site.

**Seniors** will not attend school on April 9. They can use the day as a college or career visit or research day. There is no need to call your student in or bring any proof back from the college.

**Freshmen** will be taking the PSAT 8/9. **Sophomores** will be taking the PSAT 10. **Juniors** will be taking the SAT test, all paid for by the district.

Preparing for the Test

As a parent, you can help your child by knowing and doing the following things. It is very important that every student come prepared for testing (which means bringing a
calculator and 2 sharpened #2 pencils). It is also important to get a good night sleep leading up to the test and eat a good nutritious breakfast. Students need to have confidence in themselves and keep a positive attitude throughout testing and take the day seriously. Tell them that they should keep focused during the test: remind them that difficult and easy questions are mixed throughout the test. Convince them not to get overwhelmed and worry about the test – our teachers have been preparing them and they are ready to do their best!

**Happenings**

Did you miss the big news about our new Micro Pantry? There was a great deal of press on our special delivery that you can find linked below! We are so excited for this addition to our school and appreciate the behind the scenes efforts from Ms. Sarah Bogard to orchestrate this project. Click here to view any of the segments: [NBC5 Segment](#)  [Telemundo Segment](#)  [Southtown Article](#)

![Bremen Micro-Pantry located in the IMC](#)

**Athletic Director – Eric Washington**

Happy New Year from the Athletic Department. These are exciting times at BHS. If you’ve not had an opportunity to see the progress of our construction project, please join us at an upcoming athletic event and see for yourself. As of now, we are on schedule to open the doors of our new Fieldhouse for the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

In the Athletic Department, we always encourage our student-athletes put forth great effort in the classroom and the arena. If your son or daughter is in need of academic assistance, please encourage them to seek help and utilize one of the available academic supports including after-school tutoring sessions. Tutors are available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 pm-4:15 pm in the IMC.

Did you know that college’s coaches and admissions representatives love multi-sport student-athletes? So do we! Tryouts for spring sports begin Monday, February 25th. Remember, to participate in athletics student-athletes must have a current physical on file in the athletic office and be in good academic and disciplinary standing. More information on this policy can also be found here: [http://il.8to18.com/BremenHS/](http://il.8to18.com/BremenHS/)

**Drivers Education – New Process to Register**

Online registration for the behind the wheel portion of our Drivers Education program will begin February 1st. Detailed information regarding the process can be found at: [https://www.bhsd228.com/academics/physical_education/driver_s_education](https://www.bhsd228.com/academics/physical_education/driver_s_education)

**Senior Scholarships Provided by Class of 1963**

Are you a senior at Bremen High School? If so, the Bremen class of 1963 is providing scholarships available to three students in various amounts. For the past three years they have provided $2000 for students to assist them in attending a four year college, junior college or trade school. Scholarship applications are available on the website and need to be completed in full to be eligible. All applications need to be submitted prior to Friday, April 26th. If you have any questions see your counselor or Dr. Kibelkis.

![Representatives from class of 1963](#)

**Remember at Bremen**

WE HAVE PRIDE

Who We Are
What We Do
How We Do It

“BUILDING OUR CULTURE”