## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Battlefield High School Families,

As we close the first semester, I want to thank the community, staff, and students, for the enthusiasm and support that you provide to Battlefield High School everyday. I am particularly excited about the student-led opportunities we have had develop over the past several months. For example, The BHS Acts of Random Kindness Club has created an interactive board called "Take What You Need, Give What Is Needed" that is now front and center when you enter the school. (For more information on this board, please see the Battlefield High School Facebook page). Our recent STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Expo, led mainly by students in our IT Program, opened a tremendous opportunity for families from all over Prince William County to enjoy learning and participating in the world of STEAM. Recently, students who lead our Bobcat Cafe were featured guest at the Principal's Advisory Council meeting. Currently, staff is working on the development of our Student Activities Leadership Course (SALC) for the 2017-18 school year. This program will unify the student body by developing student leaders across the building. (Students can get an application for this program right now in the main office, satellite office, or counseling).

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Principal’s Message (cont’d next pg)
These are only some examples of a simple point—your kids are amazing, and make Battlefield a great place to learn and work everyday. If there is anything I can do to assist in improving the environment for your child, if you have any feedback or questions, please know I am always here to listen and help. Again, thank you for everything you do for your kids and our community school.

Sincerely,

Ryan Ferrera
Principal
Hugh O’Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Workshop
Battlefield is proud to announce that Caitlyn Nguyen will represent our school at the Hugh O’Brien Youth (HOBY) Leadership Workshop in June 2017 at James Madison University. Casey Cho was selected as our alternate for this event. HOBY is a three-day seminar that introduces students to distinguished leaders of the community through informal panel discussions. The mission of this internationally recognized organization is to seek out and develop leadership potential in students while emphasizing democracy, free enterprise, volunteerism and service to others. Through an application process, only one sophomore (and one alternate) from each high school in Virginia is invited to attend. Congratulations Caitlyn and Casey!

Transition to College
We would like to offer a big thank you to the 2016 Battlefield alumni who spoke about their first semester of college during our Transition to College program in late December. The program allowed current seniors to find out what to expect as they move on to college next year. The seniors who attended the event had the opportunity to ask questions and hear about topics including: adjustment to college life, college classes, time management, getting involved, and scholarships/paying for college.

PSAT Results
The school counselors delivered PSAT score interpretation sessions in English 11 and English 10 classes in January. Students were provided with a paper copy of their PSAT score report and their PSAT test booklet. During these sessions students were also given an opportunity to create a CollegeBoard account so they can access PSAT scores online, view in-depth explanations for correct and incorrect answers, link to SAT test prep materials, and learn more about their AP Potential. The PowerPoint presentation used in these sessions is posted on the “Documents & Downloads” section of the Counseling Center webpage.

Junior Lessons
In January the school counselors visited US/VA History classes to deliver the 11th grade curriculum lesson on post-secondary planning. The presentation used in this lesson is posted on the “Documents & Downloads” section of the Counseling Center webpage.

HBCU Festival
Alfred Street Baptist Church is hosting the 15th annual HBCU Festival on Saturday, February 18, 2017, 10:00am-3:00pm, at T.C. Williams High School. Doors open at 9:00am. Over 70 colleges and universities will be represented and some schools will conduct on-site admissions and waive application fees. There will be seminars for students and parents/guardians, plus band auditions (must pre-register and bring your own instrument). The event is free and open to all students in grades 9-12 and their parents; everyone must register. Visit www.alfredstreet.org/hbcu.htm or call 703-683-2222 for more information. If you have questions, please e-mail hbcufestivalplanning@alfredstreet.org. T.C. Williams High School is located at 3330 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Counseling (cont’d next pg.)
Junior Parent Night
Mark your calendar! The Counseling Department will host Junior Parent Night on Thursday, March 16th at 7:00pm in the BHS auditorium. We will provide information regarding the college application process and timeline, an overview of what colleges are looking for, and how your student can best present himself/herself to the admissions committee. Please plan to attend this important event!

Practical Nursing Program Applications
Applications are now available for the Prince William County School of Practical Nursing. Current juniors interested in this program for 2017-2018 should visit the program's website on the Osbourn Park website for information regarding the application process. Current seniors may also apply to attend the program as an adult during the 2017-2018 school year. All applications are due to the School of Practical Nursing at Osbourn Park High School by March 15, 2017. Contact Tammy Dean, Program Director, at deantx@pwcs.edu if you have any questions.

Enrichment Opportunities
Students looking for enrichment opportunities can find such information in Family Connection. Click on the “Colleges” tab, then click the link to “Enrichment Programs” to find a list of opportunities and information regarding the application process, cost, contact information, and more. Students who need help logging into Family Connection should visit the Counseling Center to receive assistance from one of the secretaries.

Selective Service
Did you know? According to law, a man must register with Selective Service within 30 days of his 18th birthday. Those who fail to register can be denied many important opportunities including student loans, government jobs, and a driver’s license in most states. Register with Selective Service at www.sss.gov.

Please remember that the Counseling Department is committed to the academic, interpersonal, and career success of every student at Battlefield. Please check future newsletters for information regarding classroom guidance activities and counseling services. As always, please contact the appropriate counselor if you have any questions or concerns.
Course Selection for 2017-2018

Teachers have reviewed information related to course selections and will be making recommendations for their students in mid- to late-January so parents/guardians and students can make informed decisions concerning course selections for next year. Teacher recommendations will be visible to students in Parent Portal beginning January 31st. Students and parents/guardians who have questions regarding specific recommendations are urged to speak directly with the teacher who made the recommendation. Students will have the opportunity to enter their preliminary course requests in Parent Portal from January 31st through February 6th. This feature is not available in parent accounts on Parent Portal. Students cannot delete the course recommendations entered by their teachers. Students should begin preparing for this task now by making sure they are able to log in to their Parent Portal account.

The counselors will begin meeting with students individually regarding course selection for the 2017-2018 school year in mid-February and will continue to do so through the end of March. Counselors will meet with rising seniors through US/VA History classes, with rising juniors through English 10 classes, and with rising sophomores through English 9 classes. The schedule of course selection meetings have been provided to teachers so they can inform their students.

During individual course selection meetings, the counselors will verify that each student has selected appropriate courses to satisfy his/her graduation requirements and career goals, discuss post-secondary plans, document alternate course selections, and answer any questions the student may have. Each student will be given a copy of his/her course selections to take home for parent/guardian signature. Course selection forms must be returned to the Counseling Center with parent/guardian signature within one week of the student meeting with his/her counselor. Course selection verification letters will be sent home to students and parents/guardians in mid-May.

Each year we encourage students to take the most rigorous course load possible while still doing well in their classes. One part of the decision-making process during course selection should be a student’s self-assessment regarding the time and effort he/she is willing to commit to his/her studies. Understanding the expectations of a given course and how those expectations fit in with a student’s other academic, extra-curricular, and personal responsibilities is key to striking the right balance between being challenged and being overwhelmed. Students are encouraged to research the courses in which they are interested by speaking with both the teacher who currently teaches a particular course and other students who have taken the course. The information gathered from these conversations can assist students in choosing their courses and in making progress toward reaching their goals.
Counseling (cont’d)

It is very important that parents/guardians and students take an active role in the selection of courses during the high school years. Course selections are personal and should be based on a student’s interests, abilities, and future career goals. When a student meets with his/her counselor for course selection, it is our expectation that the student and parent/guardian have discussed the student’s choices in light of his/her career goals.

The PWCS 2017-2018 High School Course Catalog is now available online under “Documents & Downloads” section of the Counseling Center page of the BHS website. Students will not receive a printed copy of the catalog. Students who do not have access to a computer at home may use a computer in the Career Center or library before school, after school, or during lunch to review the course catalog. It is very important that students and parents/guardians become familiar with the course catalog and be particularly aware of course prerequisites. Students must meet prerequisites to have the foundation necessary to be successful in their courses. The course catalog also provides pertinent information regarding graduation requirements, diploma seals, promotion policy and grade classification, eligibility requirements, and the class withdrawal policy. Please refer to the course catalog for specific requirements. Contact your student’s counselor if you have any questions.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Battlefield High school Transition Specialist, Ms. Kelly Maitland, has been in all computer skills classes working with over 100 students to do interest inventories and online career assessments; along with introducing students to other career options besides college.

An invitation only field trip to Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) is also being set up by Ms. Maitland for the beginning of March for students to learn about NVCC academic and support services.

Annual Prince William County Transition Fair to be held March 18, 2017, at the Kelly Leadership building, from 12:00pm – 3:30 p.m. If you are interested in planning for the future, learning more about careers, college resources, Medicaid, social security benefits, guardianship and resources in your community to name a few, be on the lookout for even more information being sent home. This is a FREE event! To register call 703-391-8354.
Local Bibb Lettuce

Did you know that Prince William County Schools’ cafeterias serve locally grown Bibb lettuce? It is grown hydroponically at Portwood Gardens Farm in Dayton, Virginia, and is harvested over the weekend and in our schools by Tuesday! Hydroponics is a growing method without soil that uses water and mineral solutions. Hydroponic growing promotes a clean growing environment.

Bibb lettuce is also known as butterhead or Boston lettuce. The leaves are crisp, yet tender, and have a rich, buttery flavor. It is a more nutrient-dense lettuce variety than iceberg, and has folate, fiber and vitamins A, C and K.

School Food Services uses Bibb lettuce in our tossed salad, which can be the base for our “Make Your Own” (MYO) salad lunch choice!

From Your Neighborhood Cows

You may have heard about the beautiful, locally grown fruit and vegetable choices served in Prince William County Schools (PWCS), but did you know the milk we serve is local too? That’s right! Your milk comes from Virginia cows, and it is free of growth hormones. You can select a carton as part of a complete school meal!

Less than 80% of middle and high school students take milk with their school meals. **What are they drinking instead?** Many consume sugar-sweetened beverages such as soda, sports drinks, fruit punch and energy drinks. These beverages all have one thing in common- added sugar. According to the American Heart Association, added sugar, such as high fructose corn syrup, has been linked to higher risks of diabetes and heart disease.

**Why is milk a good choice?** Milk provides students with the vitamin D, calcium and protein they need to grow and build strong bones. It is recommended that kids between the ages of 9 and 18 consume 3 servings of dairy every day. Choosing milk as part of a complete school breakfast and lunch allows students the opportunity to drink up to 2 of their daily dairy servings at school. So don’t forget to grab a milk with your school meal!
TOUCH BASE
Monday, February 13, 2017
7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Battlefield High School

You’re invited to attend Battlefield High School’s winter “Touch Base” event on Monday, February 13, 2017. This is an opportunity for parents/guardians to come to our school between 7:30 am and 9:30 am and meet individually with any or all of your student’s teachers for a brief 3-5 minute conference. No appointments are needed.

“Touch Base” conferences are limited to 3-5 minutes in order to facilitate a very quick and informal discussion on a first come/first serve basis. If you wish to meet longer with one or more of your student’s teachers, please follow up with them by email to arrange a more formal conference.

FYI: Monday, February 13, 2017 will be a three hour delay for students.

SPORTS

Basketball
The Battlefield Boys Basketball Program is having another successful season. The freshman boys are 11-1. They have won 11 straight games since losing their first game on November 29. They have five games left entering the week. They are led this season by head coach Donald Fair.

The junior varsity boys’ team remains undefeated at 16-0. They are looking for head coach Nick Nixon’s first undefeated season as head coach. The junior varsity team has four games left this season as they attempt to go unbeaten on the year.

The varsity boys’ basketball team is 12-7 this season. They have won 10 of their last 12 games since beginning the season at 1-5. Head coach Randall Bills has the Bobcats at 5-0 in conference play and 7-3 at home. They have just three games remaining on the schedule before beginning postseason play.

Wrestling
The Battlefield Wrestling team is undefeated in conference competition and is the #1 ranked 6A program in the state of Virginia headed into the post season. They are looking to win their 6th straight Conference title and 3rd straight Regional title. Thank you to all who have come out to support your Bobcat Wrestlers and wish them luck as they purse their goal of becoming State Champions!
The Battlefield athletic office would like to remind the Bobcat community the spring sports season will be upon us soon. **Spring sports tryouts start on February 19, 2017.** The tryout schedule for each spring sport will be posted soon.

Please visit [www.bobcatsathletics.org](http://www.bobcatsathletics.org) for information regarding your respected sport. Also, most questions about athletics and tryouts can be answered on the home page using the "Frequently Asked Questions" tab.

Coaches contact information is also located on the home page if you need to contact them with questions. Please click the "Coaches" tab.

All athletes participating in spring sports must have a recent physical on file dated after May 1, 2016.

Concussion training is mandatory before trying out for any sport in a Prince William County School. Training sessions have been scheduled for all students who are NEW to PWCS as well as all rising 9th grade students. Parents and students who have already attended a face-to-face training with a PWCS school may take this year's mandatory concussion training online.

**Battlefield High School face-to-face concussion training date is scheduled for February 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.** Doors will be locked promptly at 7:00 p.m. with NO EXCEPTIONS. Please see the 2016-17 PWCS Concussion Training Schedule on the Battlefield HS athletic website or the PWCS website. You may attend a concussion training at any of the high schools in Prince William County if the BHS concussion training date does not work with your families’ schedule.

Thank you so much for supporting our student-athletes at Battlefield High School. Go Bobcats!
**Look What’s Coming!**

**Valentine's Celebration-- Across the Decades and Around the World**

Come check out this cross-curricular multimedia presentation for Valentine’s celebrations from different areas and time periods. This project will be on display in the Library Learning Commons from February 1st through 13th, including during Touch Base. Stop in and enjoy the history!

**March Madness Title Tournament!**

Back by popular demand is the March Madness Title Tournament, starting February 17th and continuing through the entire month of March. Students and staff will place votes in the LLC for their favorite book in each category, eventually reaching a crowd favorite. Be on the lookout for the brackets to be displayed soon!

**Bobcat Readers’ Choice**

**Extra Credit in English class and PRIZES still up for grabs!**

Read one of the Bobcat Readers’ Choice books then take a quiz in the library! We will email the score to the teacher. Look for the BRC display in the LLC. Students who get 80% or better on a BRC quiz will be entered into a giveaway! One entry per quiz.

**Walmart Wish-List**

Help the Battlefield LLC update the Homework and Activity Centers!

We have partnered with Walmart and created a Wish List to help provide tools and resources for staff and students to use for schoolwork, activities, and displays. Updates will be made periodically. Please consider making a small purchase in support of our students.

**Library Stats for 2016/2017**

- Classes Served: 231
- Checkouts: nearly 7000
Orchestra

Congratulations to the students of the Battlefield Philharmonia, one of only four music ensembles in the DC region to be selected to perform at the Kennedy Center. The Battlefield Philharmonia will perform a concert in the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Hall on Thursday, March 2\textsuperscript{nd} at 6PM. Admission is free and the concert is open to the public.

All 170 of our students performed in the Winter Concert this past December. Highlights included selections from Home Alone and from the Polar Express. A big “thank you” to the Battlefield Orchestra Council and our student volunteers for decorating the auditorium and preparing the hot chocolate.

Our musicians provided holiday music in a variety of venues this season, including for the Haymarket Tree Lighting Ceremony and the annual performance of carols at the Manassas Mall. Thank you to all who volunteered their time at these events.

We are preparing for a busy concert schedule over the next couple of months. In addition to the performance at the Kennedy Center, we look forward to our “Masterworks” Concert on February 28\textsuperscript{th} at 7PM, where we will be joined by the Bull Run Middle School 8\textsuperscript{th} Grade Orchestra. Our 3\textsuperscript{rd} Annual Elementary Pyramid Concert is on March 7\textsuperscript{th} in the Gymnasium, where 5\textsuperscript{th} grade string students will be joined by the musicians of the Battlefield Philharmonia. All three of our orchestras perform at the state music assessment at Patriot High School on March 8\textsuperscript{th}, 9\textsuperscript{th}, and 10\textsuperscript{th}. Finally, many of our students will perform in Chicago, Illinois on Saturday, March 18\textsuperscript{th} as part of the Worldstrides National Competition. Further details can be found on the orchestra calendar, available for download from our School Messenger Page.

Many orchestra students will be selling cookie dough in the coming weeks to raise money for their spring trip. Please consider helping our student musicians who have been working hard to prepare for this year’s competition.

Thank you for all you do to support our talented students here at Battlefield High School! You can find out more about our orchestra program on Facebook, Twitter, and by visiting www.battlefieldorchestras.com.
The Principal’s Advisory Council meeting held on January 23rd began with a Battlefield Highlight of the Bobcat Café. Bobcat Café is a program in which students with significant learning challenges learn functional math skills by planning grocery lists, going to the grocery store on Wednesday mornings, baking items in their classroom kitchen on Thursday’s and selling items to faculty and staff on Fridays. Mrs. Klima-DuBois had each student introduce himself to the PAC and explain what his role was in preparing the cart for the evening. The students wrapped up their segment of the meeting by greeting the PAC members and passing out treats that they would typically serve on Fridays.

Other announcements made by Mr. Ferrera were the following:
- February 1, 2017 is the date Superintendent, Dr. Waltz, has set to present his budget for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Parking lot gates were put in place on January 11th to help regulate students’ traffic in the student parking lot area

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the Flex schedule proposal that was present to the staff. Mr. Ferrera explained the three possible options and opened up the floor for any input or concerns about the proposed models:

Option A – Flex Schedule with Advisory (8 flex blocks)

Option B – Flex Schedule with Homeroom (8 flex blocks)

Option C – Flex schedule with no advisory or homeroom (7 flex blocks)

Next, the council continued discussing the school survey results from last school year focusing on the school culture and climate. Mr. Ferrera informed the PAC that he has initiated a school culture task force that will be further exploring this topic. When the floor was opened for member business, Ms. Byrne, the director of school counseling informed the council that the course recommendation process has started and that teacher recommendations will be completed by 11:59 p.m. on January 30th at which time the student window for course selection will open. Students will completed their course selection through parent connection and will subsequently meet with their counselor in the coming eight weeks to discuss and finalize their courses. PAC will reconvene on February 27th.