

memo

To: Blue Ridge Board of Education
Dr. Hillary Stanifer, Superintendent

From: Brian Easter, Blue Ridge High School Principal

Date: December 13, 2023

Re: BRHS Board Report

Upcoming Events:

DECEMBER

16-20 Girls Basketball at Meridian Tournament
21 Home Boys Basketball (4:30)
29-30 Boys Basketball at Greenview Tournament

JANUARY

4 JV/V Girls Basketball at Lexington
5 Girls Basketball at Calvary, Boys Basketball at Unity Christian
8 Home Girls Basketball (6:00)
9 Home Boys Basketball (6:00)
11 Home Scholastic Bowl (4:30), Girls Basketball at Heritage
12 Home Boys Basketball (6:00)
13 Scholastic Bowl at Lincoln Tournament
13-18 LPC Tournament at Unity Christian

By the numbers -

We have 187 students enrolled at Blue Ridge High School.

Average Daily Attendance Rate for the month of November was 89.3%.

Discipline data as of December 14th (and from 11/10-12/14):

- Detentions - 47 (29)
 - Lunch detentions accounted for 26 instances.

- Before/After school detentions accounted for 3 instances.
- Saturday Schools - 8 (0)
- In-School Suspensions - 10 (4)
 - 4 students received ISS during this reporting period.
 - Suspensions totaled 6.5 full days during this reporting period.
- Out of School Suspensions - 4 (0)
 - No students received OSS during this reporting period.
 - Suspensions totaled 0 full days during this reporting period.
- Electronics referrals - 52 (21)
 - 32 students have received a referral for electronics.
 - 10 students have reached level 2.
 - 5 students are currently on a cell phone contract (level 3 and beyond).

Our Alternative Education students (through the Edgenuity program) have collectively completed 29 classes for a total of 22 earned credits as of December 13th. Fifteen students are currently enrolled in at least one hour of alternative education.

Here are some highlights from our daily announcements over the past month:

The high school Student Council wrote 225 Christmas Cards to the Farmer City Nursing Home and Rehab center to spread some holiday cheer.

FFA members traveled to Decatur to compete in the Section 16 Parliamentary Procedure and Conduct of Chapter Meetings events. In Parliamentary Procedure the team placed 1st overall with all 6 team members placing in the top 10. Lillian Enger placed 1st overall as the chair with floor members including Lori Weiss 1st overall, Mercedes Manuel 2nd overall, Carmen Ellis 3rd overall, Ava Paullin 4th overall, and Presley Hardesty 8th overall. Lillian Enger also had the highest overall score in the event. The Conduct of Chapter Meetings Team placed 1st overall. Drake Hardesty placed 1st overall as the President with floor members including Raeanna Miller 1st overall, Addie Browning 5th overall, Kelly Weiss 6th overall, Tyler Holtz 8th overall, Cheyanne Smith 10th overall, and Shawn Christie 11th overall. Drake Hardesty also had the highest score in their event. Both teams will be advancing to Districts in April for the 8th year in a row.

At the 10th annual Mike Hendricks Memorial class A scholastic bowl tourney the varsity went 4-3 on the day. Leading the varsity knights in toss-ups was AJ Johnson with 34 followed by Indra Nolan with 17, Broden Soliday with 9 and Devin Wrestler and Addison Warsaw with 3 each. Leading our B team was Taylyn Watterson and Elias Nolan with 8 toss-ups each. It was great to see 5 former Blue Ridge scholastic bowl players come back and help with this tourney! Special shout out to our thespian troupe for providing a fantastic lunch.

The Boys Basketball Team took 2nd place at the Calvary Thanksgiving Tournament. Congratulations to Colin Michaels and Isaac Price who were both named to the all-tournament team.

What have we been up to?

Mrs. Diener is typically here on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday each week. During those days, she has been:

- Running 504 meetings

- Helping Nancy Hoffman with attendance issues
- Developing SEL lessons that are age appropriate
- Planning, running and following through on Tier 3 meetings

One of my personal/professional goals for this year is to make a visit to every teacher every week. I'm pleased to say that I was able to meet this goal completely during 10 of the first 11 full weeks of school. At that point, I listened to some feedback from our staff and determined that I needed to revise my procedures. As part of our ILT meeting this month, we came up with a new approach for my visits that will resume with the new semester. In addition to that, I have also been:

- Working on another goal of mine that relates to a Principal Advisory Group made up of students. The group has been compiled and our second meeting was on 12/14.
- Organizing/running our ILT and Tier 1 and 2 meetings, then communicating with staff about the contents
- Attending IEP meetings

We BOTH continue to be busy:

- Working with students and staff when there are behavior concerns
- Conducting pre-conferences, formal observations and post-conferences with teachers
- Supervising evening and weekend activities
- Assisting with morning, lunchtime and after school supervision (as well as hallways during passing periods)
- Working with staff on curriculum related discussions
- Supporting students by looking over college essays and talking through other concerns

Congratulations and Kudos:

***Staff and Student of the Month (Exemplary Knights) -**

Our staff winner for Exemplary Knight for the month of December is **Sandra Shelton**. Sandra is a (recently hired) full-time parapro who has been with Blue Ridge for more than 5 years. Here are some insights about Mrs. Shelton.

- *Sandra is an amazing person. She goes above and beyond to help students at Blue Ridge succeed. She has a special way of reaching the kids and making them believe in themselves. Not to mention she's one of the hardest working people I know. We are very lucky to have her.*
- *Mrs. Shelton works diligently with students and teachers to help each person strive to achieve their goals. She builds rapport with every person she meets at the school. She provides purposeful challenges and consistent support and encouragement to help others meet those challenges.*
- *Sandra Shelton is not only an Exemplary Knight but she is an exemplary person. Everyday, Sandra is an advocate for our students at the high school. She is so aware of what our students need in order to be successful-whether it be helping them academically or sharing her time to have a conversation with them. To Sandra, every student matters.*

We have 2 students that we are recognizing this month - **Kayla Cole** (Sr.) and **Jackson Hawn** (Sr.). These students were nominated for this recognition by staff members. Staff then voted for their top choices based on all nominees.

Here are some things that teachers say about these awesome students:

Kayla Cole (Sr)

- Kayla is a fantastic student striving for excellence and finding her passion in the culinary arts. She is balancing work, BACC, school, and a college class. Kayla has a sweet way of coming alongside a struggling classmate to express empathy and then offering help.
- Kayla performs very well academically and sets a high standard for others to follow.
- Kayla is a determined student who places high standards of success on herself so she can be the very best she can be. She is also kind and considerate to others.
- Kayla is a kind, thoughtful student whose work ethic is incredible. She puts her all into every assignment and can be counted on to show up and work hard, despite balancing her school with her classes at BACC and her part-time job.

Jackson Hawn (Sr)

- Jackson performs very well academically and is also very kind and helpful to others.
- Jackson is a great candidate for this honor. He works very hard and is very driven. He is organized and helpful to his peers. He stays involved in Golf and in doing tech for the Drama Club.
- Jackson is a helpful and determined individual who is not afraid to help those who need it. He is a great student all around!
- Jackson is a kind and diligent student who strives for excellence in each area of his life.
- Jackson is a wonderful student to have in class--he's kind to everyone he meets, works hard in every class, and has diverse interests and hobbies.

Our Athletes of the Month for November are:

Boys Basketball - Colin Michaels - Colin started the season by being selected as a team captain by the coaches. In the first 5 games of the season, Colin is leading the team in scoring 14.8 points per game and 10.5 rebounds per game. The Knights have started the season 3-2 behind Colin's great play. Keep up the good work Colin!

Girls Basketball - Addison Warsaw - Addison is exemplary in her representation of attitude and character at all times. She never misses practice, always carries herself well on and off the court. Does well in the classroom and is always encouraging her teammates. She leads with excellence as a team captain and never lets adversity reveal itself outwardly in her disposition. She is truly an exemplary teammate and representative of Blue Ridge High School.

Cheerleading - Cassie Zimmerman - Shows up for practice ready to learn and help others when needed. Along with that she works hard and never gives up.

Scholastic Bowl - AJ Johnson - AJ has really stepped up their game this year starting over 25 one on one practices as well as team practices for the quest for all-state recognition. AJ was the leading scorer at the Harvard Fall Tournament at Auburn (Rockford) standard division on Oct. 7th. AJ has been our captain for the past two years and has demonstrated every quality a scholastic bowl captain possesses and leads by example and with distinction. AJ was the 5th

top scorer in the competitive 10th annual Mike Hendricks tourney on November 18th. AJ currently sits as the program's 6th top scorer in school history. We are looking for great accomplishments from AJ in January and February.