



Blue Notes

Phone: 508-222-5150

Volume VI

2007-2008

Fax: 508-223-1579

Attleboro High School
THE HOME OF BLUE PRIDE

IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL 2008

- 4-5 H.S. Musical Bray Aud. 7-10
- 8 Jr. Parents' Night Bray Aud. 7-9
- 8 3rd Quarter ends
- 9 ½ Day for students 11 AM
- Professional Development Day
- 9 4th Quarter Begins
- 11 Senior Prom
- 14 Gr. 8 Parents' Night 7:30 Bray Aud.
- 16 National Honor Society Induction
- 17 Student/Faculty Volleyball Game
- 18 Report Cards Distributed
- 21-25 Vacation

DATE CHANGES

May 1st will be AWARDS NIGHT
May 6th will be the Valedictorian /
Salutatorian Ceremony

MAY 2008

- 1 Special Olympics
- 1 Awards Night Bray Aud. 6:30-9
- 3 SAT Exam
- 5-16 AP Exams Administered
- 6 Special Olympics [Rain Date]
- 6 Val/Sal Ceremony 1PM Prin. Lobby
- 15 Mid-Quarter Date
- 17 12th Annual One-Act Festival 9-5
- 20 Scholarship Evening 7PM
- 21-22 MCAS Math Test
- 23 Progress Reports Distributed
- 23 Junior Prom
- 26 Memorial Day – No School
- 27-29 MCAS History Test
- 29 Sr. Final Exams
- 30 Sr. Final Exams

The School Council meeting dates are:

Monday, May 12, 5 – 6:30 PM

2008 Boston Globe Scholastic Art Award AHS Winners

Congratulations to the following Attleboro High School students who received awards from the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards. Their artwork was selected from 3,500 entries sent in from high schools across Massachusetts.

Olga Batyuk, 12- Silver Key
Michelle Drummey, 12-Silver Key
**Katarzyna Paluszek, 12- Honorable
Mention**
Jay Patel, 12- Honorable Mention
Ashley Rautenstrauch, 12- Silver Key
Harmandeep Singh, 12- Silver Key

Attleboro High School would like these students to know how much pride they have brought to the city of Attleboro, their families and to their teachers.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Meetings are at 8:30 AM in the
Principal's Conference Room.

April 4, 2008
May 9, 2008

High School Course Selection for 2008-2009

(8th Graders read page 3)

Students at the **high school** began the course selection process for 2008-2009 in March. Students have been meeting with their guidance counselors to review their transcripts and course options. All students will receive their 2008-09 Program of Studies booklets during their Advisory sessions.

Students should have finished making their requests by the middle of April. We will then send home the list of courses that your child has requested. Please remember that the requests do not necessarily mean a student will be able to be scheduled for all choices. Sometimes courses may not be the appropriate level, students may not meet the prerequisites, or the course may not have sufficient enrollment to be offered.

Parents will have approximately one week to review the choices that students have made. ALL course request sheets should be returned (whether or not there are changes or comments) with a parent's signature to the student's E block teacher. Parents who request a change will be contacted by their child's guidance counselor. Parents will receive final notification of the scheduled courses in early July. Parents and students will have an additional opportunity to revise their scheduled courses in August.

(continued on page 3)

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Journey Towards Excellence

GUIDANCE NEWS

Freshmen: We have been meeting with ninth grade students individually and/or in small groups to discuss their scheduling interests and options for next year and how those choices will fit into their high school career. As we mentioned last month, students will be receiving a Program of Studies Booklet later in the spring, but it is not too soon to discuss whether your student's interests lie in the arts and humanities, sciences and maths, or career technology fields. Other considerations to keep in mind are AP and Honors Courses, the Honors Diploma, and Career Technology Education (CTE) programs. Students who were not scheduled for the Tech Exploratory Course in the fall have been offered the chance to select two CTE classes that they would like to observe later this semester to help them decide if they want to sign up for a CTE Program. It is important for students and parents to remember that choosing a program and listing it on the course selection sheet is only the first step in a process. The students who list these programs will then be individually reviewed for enrollment in a program. The most important things that are considered are grades, attendance (this includes tardiness), and discipline records.

No appointment is necessary. If you have questions or concerns, please visit Ms. Lamoureux (A-Leo ext. 227 slamoureux@attleboroschools.com) or Mr. Horack (Lep-Z ext. 501, jhorack@attleboroschools.com.) in the grade 9 house office located on the third floor.

Sophomores: CONGRATULATIONS to Joseph Lazzarini! Joey was elected to represent Attleboro High School in MassSTAR's 3-day leadership conference at Lasell College in May. At this conference, students will interact with leaders from fields such as business, government, health, the arts, and education, through a number of interactive activities.

MassSTAR's (Massachusetts Students Accepting Responsibility) vision is to empower citizenship within young student leaders through an interactive process. Through intense but informal workshops, students get a realistic look at their nation, its people, and their own role within their community.

Joey was chosen to represent AHS because he has always been at the heart of making a positive change within any environment he is involved in. For example, at the age of only 13, he formed the successful and non-profit organization, "Kids Are People Too!" He did this to raise money for his friends and peers who were fighting cancer or other life-threatening diseases. We extend our sincere congratulations to Joseph Lazzarini!

We are now in the process of meeting with sophomores to choose course requests for next year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's House 10 guidance counselor on the third floor.

If you have questions or concerns, please visit Mr. Feinberg (A-K ext. 387 bfeinberg@attleboroschools.com) or Ms. Kennedy (L-Z ext. 540, kkennedy@attleboroschools.com) in the grade 10 house office located on the third floor. We look forward to seeing you!

Juniors: Junior Parents' Night is being held on Tuesday, April 8 in the Bray Auditorium from 7-9PM. We will host a guest speaker from Dean College and will complete the night with a presentation by the junior class counselors. We invite all juniors and their parents to attend. This is a great opportunity for parents and students to learn more about what to expect in the senior year of high school.

Junior counselors are in the process of meeting individually with their students to identify classes for students' senior year and to revisit their post-secondary plans. A list of courses your child has selected will be mailed home around April break for your perusal and approval.

Keep in mind: the registration deadline for the May 3rd SAT is coming up quickly. Students who wish to take the May SAT must register on collegeboard.com by April 1st. Students who want to take the June 7 SAT must register by May 6th. If there are any questions, please contact:

Mr. Parrillo (A-K ext. 325, aparrillo@attleboroschools.com)
Ms. DiRaimo (L-Z ext. 259, jdiraimo@attleboroschools.com)

Seniors: Seniors should be finalizing their plans for after graduation. For those who still do not have plans for next year, be sure to set an appointment with your guidance counselor to discuss options and opportunities that still are available. Numerous scholarships have rapidly approaching deadlines and seniors should be reviewing those as well.

Whether you are looking to go to college, the military, trade school, or work, seniors must first graduate. It is now more important than ever to stay on top of your course work and ensure you are graduating with your class. There is no "next year" or "next semester" anymore. We want to see all of you at commencement ceremonies.

If you have questions or concerns please call or email: Ms. Ahearn (A-K ext. 268, eahearn@attleboroschools.com), or Mr. Janicki (L-Z ext. 288, mjanicki@attleboroschools.com).

Parents Need to become Code Breakers !

Wtr1: Hey how r u? jst waned to no wat u were doin dis w.e n 2
c if u wanted 2 chill wit me n sam. r u in?

Wtr2: omg Sounds good. Wht goin on?

Wtr1: idk nm jst hangin w my bf

Wtr2: as usual lol ... brb my paw

Wtr2: lov y ttyl

Do you feel like you are reading a foreign language? You are. A vastly different language from what you learned in high school. Today it's probably the second most used language by high school students.

In case you couldn't figure it out. Writer one is asking a friend if she wants to go to a party this weekend. Writer two replies "Oh my God" sounds good. What's going on? To which writer one replies: I don't know, not much just hanging with my boyfriend. Writer two writes: as usual laugh out loud. Then writes: be right back my parents are watching. Writer two signs off love you. Talk to you later.

They are chat abbreviations, acronyms and "emoticons" used in instant messaging, texting, e-mails, on My Space, etc. Deciphering an ever growing code can be tedious especially when those who know the code are resistant to help you break the code. Therefore your best tool is communication. Have your child put the phone away for a few hours a day and talk to you. It is hard for teenagers of today to imagine a day without cells phones. It is an ingrained part of their culture. Remind them you are living proof a teen can survive without one.

One of the biggest areas of discipline and distraction in school is cell phone use. A student breaks out into laughter in class for no apparent reason. Students may be completely lost during the lesson because they are texting. (This *is* a word according to dictionary.com) An argument arises from a conversation two students on opposite sides of the building are having while in class. Suddenly the students are angry or upset and the teacher and class have no idea what happened. As you can imagine this is very distracting and disrupting to everyone in the classroom. And of course the student hasn't learned, and/ or most likely will not retain, any of the lesson.

Music In Our Schools

March is national *Music In Our Schools* month. The music department has a busy month scheduled. Our competitive majorettes and winterguard will be participating in competitions every weekend throughout March. Brittany McCarthy represented the AHS music department at this year's Jr. District Music Festival which took place on March 7 & 8 at Taunton High School.

Rehearsals continue for our spring production of *Little Shop of Horrors* which will be presented on April 4 & 5 at 7pm in the Robert H. Bray Auditorium! Tickets will be available in advance by contacting the music department at 508-222-5150 x256. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door. Students have been working hard on this production for several months. Come out and support the performing arts at AHS!

The Attleboro Music Parents Assoc. helped the AHS music department apply for and receive a Mass Cultural Council Grant from the Attleboro Cultural Council in support of a visiting artist series for the high school music department. The high school mixed chorus will receive the benefits of part of this grant with an in-school program with two Certified McClosky Voice Technician Master Teachers.

The McClosky method is based on the work of Mr. David Blair McClosky. In collaboration with otolaryngologists at Syracuse University and the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary in Boston, Mr. McClosky developed techniques to resolve vocal problems without surgery. The techniques he pioneered in the 1950's are now used worldwide by performing musicians, speakers, and teachers to maintain healthy, resilient voices even under demanding conditions.

The McClosky Institute of Voice, founded in 1981, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the maintenance and enhancement of the healthy voice, as well as care and help for the troubled voice. Certified McClosky Voice Technicians (CMVT) are voice teachers, professional singers and speakers, music educators, choral conductors and speech and language pathologists. They are experienced in helping other professional voiceusers to modify their vocal habits to rebuild and enhance healthy, robust and lasting speaking and singing voices.

Topics covered in the presentation will include aspects of: healthy voice use, better problem solving, increased stamina and power with new vocal freedom, McClosky techniques replace faulty production with vocal efficiency; and singing pop and Broadway styles in a healthy way.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Attleboro Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Please join us on Thursday, April 17 at 7pm for our 4th annual PRISM Concert. "What is a PRISM Concert you ask?" Much like a prism breaks light into its component parts, a prism concert breaks our music department into its varied components. For approximately one hour, you will literally be surrounded by the components of our music program. This performance will allow you to see and hear not only the full band, choral, and jazz groups, but also a wide variety of soloists and small ensembles. As our concert progresses, you will be treated to a seamless parade of musical colors. Admission is free and open to the general public.

Donations are welcome

Over vacation this April, the music department will also be competing in the Music in the Parks Festival at Six Flags Great Adventure Theme Park. This three day excursion is the result of much hard work from students in the concert band and chorus. We're looking forward to getting the judges feedback!

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Course Selection

for

2008-2009

(continued from page 1)

Parents can help their children in this scheduling process by doing the following:

- Read carefully the promotion and graduation criteria and requirements as outlined in the Program of Studies.
- Discuss with your child the required courses for his/her grade and read the descriptions that accompany those courses.
- Encourage your child to seek assistance from his/her teachers and guidance counselor.
- Work together to complete the draft copy of the Student/Parent Worksheet found at the back of the Program of Studies.

Grade 8 to Grade 9 Scheduling

The **Grade 8 students** will receive their Program of Studies booklet on April 11th. Parents are encouraged to complete the Grade 8 Student-Parent worksheet on P.58.

Students and parents are invited to attend the Grade 8 Parents' Night to be held in the Robert H. Bray Auditorium on Monday, April 14th at 7:30PM. At that time, content coordinators will discuss curriculum choices for incoming grade 9 students in English, science, social studies, math, foreign language, art, music, and the career technical areas. In addition, parents will receive information about the scheduling process and timeline as well as the Honors Program and the guidance services available at the high school.

After April vacation, the guidance counselors from the high school will visit each 8th grade homeroom to complete the course request sheets with the students. Counselors will visit Wamsutta on April 28th, Coelho on April 29th and Brennan on April 30th.

After these course requests have been entered into the computer, a printout will be sent home for parents to review. Parents must sign and return this sheet to their child's homeroom teacher within the next 5 days. They will be contacted by someone from the high school if they wish to make any changes on the course requests. A final copy of the scheduled courses will be mailed home in July. There will be an additional opportunity to make changes during the month of August.

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