August 11, 2022

Dear BTW Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts! I’m so pleased to share with each of you our theme for the school year:

![Ignite Joy]

We’ve all been through a lot during the pandemic and are still contending with its effects. Now more than ever, it is important to celebrate the moments that bring us joy and to share it with others. Our focus, as always, is on YOU – your emotional, artistic and academic needs. And while some of you may be struggling, we are here as a school community to support you and to help you to find the joy through your art.

We are incredibly joyful as we celebrate 100 years of Booker T. Washington High School! Each of you will be able to participate in events throughout the school year which will recognize our history as “Two Schools: One Story”. What a privilege it is to stand on the shoulders of the giants and pioneers that came before us!

As we prepare for the first day of school, I want to share some important operational information with you. Please read this carefully. We want to make sure your first day is completely successful:

- **What are the COVID Protocols?**
  - As you have probably heard, wearing a mask on campus is required. We are committed to keeping our students and faculty safe. The campus will continue to be cleaned regularly and we are asking all students and staff to wash/sanitize hands frequently. We are fully in-person this year; there are no hybrid or virtual options for students.
  - Students and teachers are asked to take their temperature before reporting to school. If you are sick, please stay home. If you test positive for COVID, you will need to contact Nurse Pat Wiley at 972-925-1207. Please see the additional COVID information attached to the e-mail you received.

- **Where is the bus schedule?**
  - The bus schedule is located on our website: [www.dallasisd.org/btw](http://www.dallasisd.org/btw).

- **Where am I dropped off if I am a car rider?**
  - Car riders must be dropped off at the circle drive off of Routh Street (the east side of the building). **Drop off in the faculty lot is not permitted.**

- **Where do I park if I am a driver?**
  - Any student who is driving to campus must purchase a parking tag from Ms. Solis in Room 116 for $50. All student drivers will park in the J-Lot underneath the Woodall Rodgers freeway during the first week of school. Seniors must purchase and display their Lexus Silver Parking Tag in order to access the senior lot beginning in the 2nd week of school.
• Which entrance do I use?
  o There are only two student entrances this year. Seniors will use the Senior Entrance at the front of the historic building. All other students will enter through the Student Entrance on the Zero Floor, down the stairs from the circle drive and faculty lot.

• Is breakfast free?
  o Yes. Breakfast will be served in the Commons each day until 8:55 AM. Stop by and grab some nourishment for your day – breakfast is FREE!

• What time does school start?
  o 9:00 AM

• Where do I report to start my day?
  o On the first day of school, all students will report to their CONSERVATORY LOCATION at 9:00 AM. This is where you will meet your Flex Advisory teacher and receive your schedule.
    - Dance: Zero Floor Dance Studios
    - Music: Montgomery Arts Theater (MAT)
    - Theater: Black Box Theater (BBT)
    - Visual Arts: The Commons (Cafeteria)

• What if I didn't attend Pegasus Pick-Up?
  o For those students that were unable to attend Pegasus Pick-Up, the Library will be opened at 8:30 AM for students and parents to complete the process.
  o Important: Please access this folder before the first day of school: https://bit.ly/3h9ggoc. Students should watch the video with parents and then bring the signed contract to school (along with their district Chromebook from middle school if they have one) for a smoother and faster process.

• What about my school-issued computer?
  o Freshmen received their computers during Pegasus Pick-Up. Any freshmen that did not receive a computer will need to do so on the first day in the library.
  o Upperclassmen will receive their computers during extended Flex Advisory period on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday.

• Where can I find the school rules and policies?
  o A copy of the school norms and expectations will be handed out in Flex Advisory during the first week of school. You can also access the Student Code of Conduct at www.dallasisd.org. Each class will have an assembly on Tuesday or Wednesday to go over policies and expectations. And yes, BTW does have a dress code!

• How does the bell schedule work at BTW?
  o We are on an alternating block schedule. Mondays and Wednesdays are A days, and students will attend 1st – 4th periods. Tuesdays and Fridays are B days, and students will attend 5th – 8th periods. Fridays will alternate between A and B schedule. Flex Advisory will meet every day.

• What if there is a problem with my schedule?
  o Please take a schedule change form from the Counseling Suite in the Historic Building. We will only make schedule changes during the first week for students who are missing a class in their schedule or received credit for a class over the summer.

• How does lunch work this year?
  o All students have the same lunch period and may eat in the Commons, Green Room, or anywhere throughout the building. The performance and exhibition spaces, stairwells and Library are OFF LIMITS. Lunch is available in the cafeteria lines in the Commons.

• When will we hear more about the history, expectations and culture of BTW?
  o You will learn the importance of our school’s history and culture during Flex Advisory. Take some time to explore the display cases in the historic building!

• Who should I ask if I have a question?
  o Ask a teacher. Then ask your Conservatory Director. If you still can’t find the answer, counselors and administrators are always here to help. I keep my door open throughout the day and during lunch so that students can find me!
• What time does the school day end?
  o School will dismiss at 4:35 PM. We will NOT stagger dismissal times this year.
• What if I have to stay after school for tutoring or a school event?
  o You must be under the supervision of a teacher. Please do not remain on campus unless you are participating in an official, school-sanctioned event or rehearsal.

Traffic becomes very congested around the school particularly the first week of school. Parents and students are advised to arrive early to avoid the congestion. Students arriving before 8:15 AM are reminded that they must report to the Commons and remain there until 8:15 AM.

Students should bring basic supplies with them to the first day of school. Each teacher will give students a specific list of needed supplies in class during the first week of school. Once IDs are issued, students must wear their ID EVERY DAY!

Parents are always welcome at Booker T. Washington HSPVA. As a visitor to our campus, please come by the security desk to receive your visitor pass and be sure to wear a mask at all times. You will be asked to present a picture ID to receive your visitor badge. We welcome and encourage all parents to be active participants in your student’s educational experience. Please be mindful that teachers are only available for conferences by appointment only.

This list should get you prepped for a great first day at BTW. I’ve included the Mission and Vision and School Song for you to get familiar with before you arrive on Monday.

Mission:

As Dallas’ revolutionary high school for 21st century scholar artists, we provide intensive, integrated training to build a bridge to the post-secondary and professional world.

Vision:

We are an intersection of innovation and creation. We are a home to the young artists and thinkers who will write the next chapter of our society.

School Song
By Bert Pigg & Jim Abbott

All people have a splendor they can share, and dreams must follow a clear path.
A school for artists has that certain flair, to grace a glisten into life.
Sing a song. Dance a dance. Be an actor if you wish. Paint a picture that all dreamers can pursue.
Beauty beckons here for all, for me and for you, and for me, and for you.

As we ignite joy this year, we must also be there for one another as artists and as human beings. Take advantage of these opportunities you are given, but don’t take them for granted. I am so excited to be a part of your journey – please say hello when you see me on Monday, August 16th. Enjoy the final days of your summer break!

Sincerely,

Scott M. Rudes, Ph.D
Principal