

BVHS**Home of the LYNX****LINK to the LYNX**

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SNOW DAY MAKE-UP: The make-up day for one of our snow days will be on **Thursday, March 14.**

NO SCHOOL: There will not be school on **Friday, March 15.**

BVHS INCLUSION WEEK (MARCH 4-8): Wednesday, March 6, is Spread the Word Inclusion Day! Brandon Valley High School wants to celebrate all week long by bringing awareness to special abilities and by promoting inclusion. One of the ways we are celebrating inclusion at BVHS is with Dress-Up Days next week. (See attached flyer for each day's theme). We have such an amazing school and community that embraces inclusion for all, and we can't wait to celebrate the great things we do in that regard.

CONFERENCES: Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences at BVHS will be on **Tuesday, March 12**, from 3:30-9:30 p.m. Please mark your calendar and come to have a direct conversation with your child's teachers about how things are going in class. We are excited to host a Future Planning Fair during conferences again this year.

FUTURE PLANNING FAIR: Back by popular demand, the Future Planning Fair will be held again this year. Over 60 colleges, universities, military representatives, and local businesses will be at Brandon Valley High School on **Tuesday, March 12**, in the Activities Center. This event is open to all Brandon Valley High School students and parents in grades 9-12. We encourage students to explore post-secondary academic options, as well as career options. Students will have the opportunity to explore part-time summer work, a future internship, job shadow, or gain more knowledge about a prospective career. **Students! Register for the March 12 BVHS College Fair [here](#)! Why pre-register? Watch this [video](#).** I have attached a flyer to this event.

- **Colleges/Universities:** 2:00-4:00 PM – Activities Center
- **Pre-Med Panel:** 4:30 PM – Community Room
- **Businesses:** 5:00-7:00 PM – Activities Center

BVHS 2024-2024 ACADEMIC CALENDAR UPDATE:

- Quarter 3 end date is Wednesday, March 20
- Quarter 4 end date is still Thursday, May 23
- **BVHS Semester Test Schedule:** The high school will administer semester tests on Tuesday-Thursday, May 21 – 23. Students will be done testing by noon on May 23.

STATE TESTING - JUNIORS: State testing for juniors will be April 10 & 11 and is required by the SD Department of Education. Students will be assessed in ELA, math, and science. Students do not need to study for these assessments; we just ask that they try their best. Juniors will need to bring a pair of headphones that can hook into their computer (not wireless). More information about state testing will be provided to juniors and their parents later.

PRE-ACT FOR CURRENT SOPHOMORES: We are excited to offer the Pre-ACT to all sophomores for FREE! Sophomores will take the pre-ACT during school on **April 10 or 11**. The Pre-ACT is great practice for students planning to take the ACT their junior year. As a reminder, the ACT is required for most 4-year colleges/universities and some 2-year programs. Students will receive scores that will predict their ACT score and give them areas to work on prior to taking the ACT junior year. For more information on the Pre-ACT, click [here](#). If you do not want your child to take the Pre-ACT, we ask that you contact Katie Murdy at Katie.Murdy@k12.sd.us by March 15.

PRE-ACT 8/9 FOR CURRENT FRESHMEN: We are excited to offer for the first time the Pre-ACT 8/9 to all freshmen for FREE! Freshmen will take the Pre-ACT 8/9 during school on **April 10 or 11**. Students will receive scores that will begin their future planning as they work toward taking the ACT their junior year. For more information on the Pre-ACT 8/9, click [here](#). It is worth noting that the South Dakota Department of Education is currently considering requiring that all juniors in South Dakota take the ACT as the state assessment in the near future. If you do not want your child to take the Pre-ACT, we ask that you contact Katie Murdy at Katie.Murdy@k12.sd.us by March 15.

CLASS OF 2024 LYNX GIVE BACK-DAY & NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC):

The NCRC will be administered to all seniors on **Wednesday, April 10**, for free through the SD Department of Labor. The NCRC does not impact a student grades; we just ask that students try their best. The NCRC is a tool students can use in the future when applying for jobs, internships, and scholarships. The Class of 2024 Lynx Give-Back Day will be on **Thursday, April 11**. I will be communicating later today with the Class of 2024 students and families with additional detailed information as we enter the last few weeks of high school.

YEARBOOK ORDER LINK: I have attached a link below with yearbook ordering information for the 2023-2024 school year. The price is currently \$60 and will go up at the end of March. If you have any questions, please reach out to our yearbook advisor, Mrs. Kolbeck (Stacy.Kolbeck@k12.sd.us).

Yearbook Order Link: <http://tinyurl.com/BV-Yrbk-2023-24>.

SAFE2SAY SOUTH DAKOTA NOW ACTIVE: [Safe2Say South Dakota](#) is a statewide tip line that allows South Dakota students, school staff, and community members to safely and anonymously report sensitive information that concerns their safety or the safety of others, including mental health concerns. Safe2Say South Dakota operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Anyone with information about a potentially dangerous situation can call the toll-free number at 1-844-3SD-SAFE (1-844-373-7233); make a web report by clicking the Submit a Tip Online button; or by downloading the mobile app and making a report from a smartphone or digital device.

KEEP YOUR SENIOR ON TRACK (CLASS OF 2024):

Transcript Release Forms

Seniors, need your transcript sent to a college? Fill out a transcript release form (located in the office or on the homepage of the counselor website). Turn this form into Jessica Henson in the high school office and your transcript will be sent to the schools you list.

College Visits At BVHS

College representatives and military recruiters are scheduling in person visits or online virtual meetings for junior and senior students who are interested. Visit the daily announcements to see the schedule and register for a meeting at least 24 hours in advance. These meetings are typically held in the commons or via zoom if meetings are virtually.

On Campus College Visits

College visits are an important part of the college exploration process. Students are able to gain perspective on what kind of environment they are looking for in their college campus. Students can schedule available visits by visiting the college website. Students can use up to 3 days starting junior year, to visit post-secondary options (MEPS, Career Camps, Visit Days, etc.). College Visit Day forms are in the office. Make sure to take the form on your visit and get it signed by the college rep. Return the form to a secretary once you are back at school and the absence will change to exempt (X-SV).

Letters of Recommendation

Providing letters of recommendation are an important part of the scholarship and college application process. We encourage students to ask at least two people, who know them best, to write a letter of recommendation. Provide your recommender with a detailed list of all of your academic accomplishments, activities and clubs you are involved with, any awards you have received and volunteer or work experiences. Make sure to ask for your letters well in advance of when you will need them, so your recommender has enough time to complete your request. Great recommenders could include a teacher, coach, school counselor, principal, community member, or employer.

Scholarship Opportunities

Finding Scholarships doesn't have to be a daunting task for students. Explore the counselor's website under the Financial Aid/Scholarships page to begin your search! Students can find scholarships by clicking on the red 'Scholarship Opportunities' button which will open a google sheet with available scholarships separated by month (tabs at bottom of page). Each scholarship is listed by due date. Scroll a bit further on the Financial Aid/Scholarships page and you will find South Dakota Specific Scholarships as well as national search sites for scholarships. Learn more about these opportunities by clicking on the corresponding logos. Remember that students shouldn't have to pay for any scholarship search sites. Scholarship opportunities continue to get updated bi-weekly so continue to check back throughout the year!

Please reach out to your counselors if you have any questions about the above items for Seniors.

GO LYNX! Mr. Schlekeway

[BRANDON VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS LINK](#)