



## LINK to the LYNX

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### Home of the LYNX

**NO SCHOOL (JANUARY 13 & 20):** We will not have school on **Monday, January 13** as we will be having a teacher workshop/in-service day to get ready for second semester classes to start. We will also not have school on **Monday, January 20** in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

**SEMESTER TEST SCHEDULE:** The high school will administer semester tests on **Wednesday-Friday, January 8 – 10**. The schedule for the three testing days is attached to this e-mail. Rising Scholars students are reminded that they all are expected to take the semester tests in these classes regardless of their exempt status or whether they are taking the class for college credit. I have included a semester tests reminder sheet that will hopefully answer any questions you may have.

**HOPE SQUAD - REACHING BEYOND THE SQUAD:** One of the many benefits of Brandon Valley High School participating in the National Hope Squad program is that we have access to resources to share with our families. This year we will periodically include a Wellness Today issue highlighting some of the most prevalent mental health related topics for our youth and our families. After all, taking care of our own mental health as parents can lead to healthier families. If at any time the Wellness Today issue sparks more questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's counselor. Counselors are assigned based on your student's last name. The breakdown can be found at <https://bvhscounselors.weebly.com/>

- **Technology Boundaries:** Statistics show that the average person spends about 2 hours and 23 minutes per day on social media platforms. This is NOT just teenagers. Take a minute to evaluate your own time spent looking at the screen and you may be surprised. It is helpful to be aware of your own technology usage so you can model better habits for your children. Need some ideas of what to do instead of looking at a screen? Try family game night, taking a walk, going out to eat together, doing a service project, write letters to grandparents, etc.... **See attached pdf for more information**

**MATH 103-MATHEMATICAL REASONING:** This is new to BVHS and is being offered semester 2 through our growing partnership with Southeast Technical College. This course is taught by an STC instructor and a BVHS teacher. Math 103 is a math course accepted by SD colleges/universities and can satisfy most of the math requirements for programs at STC. We recommend students complete Foundations of Algebra II or Algebra II prior to taking Math 103. This is a great course for students who may not meet the requirements to take Math 114/College Algebra. If students are interested in taking this course or if you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Murdy at [Katie.Murdy@k12.sd.us](mailto:Katie.Murdy@k12.sd.us)

**CTE OPEN HOUSE:** CTE Academy in Sioux Falls will be hosting an Open House the evening of **January 30** from 3:45 pm – 7:45 pm. With registration around the corner, any student/family that may be considering taking future classes at the CTE Academy through BVHS are encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to explore their programs and class options. Questions? See Ms. Likness

**ANGEL TREE THANK YOU:** A big thank you to the Brandon Valley School District students, staff, and families that helped with the purchasing and wrapping of over 800 angel tree gifts in December. In addition, I want to thank those of you that helped this year by sponsoring an ornament for the angel tree. I also want to thank Mrs. Willman, Ms. Cornemann, and Mrs. Henson in the high school office for the time and energy they put into this event. It was truly a team effort by all involved and many kids in our school district experienced true joy opening all the gifts we were able to provide.

**ACT: Registration is done online** at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) and clicking on "Register for the ACT" button. We encourage students to take the ACT the spring of their junior year. The registration process can take an hour, and the student will need to upload a picture to secure their spot. Upcoming dates include February 8, April 5, June 14, and July 12. Brandon Valley High School does not offer the June or July ACT, but there are other locations in the Sioux Falls area that offer these test dates.

**DOES YOUR STUDENT NEED ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE?** All teachers are available each morning in their rooms from 7:45 a.m. until first period starts at 8:05 a.m. In addition, teachers are in their rooms and available to help after school from 3:13 - 3:45 p.m. Teachers who are responsible for an extracurricular activity may not be available after school. Please encourage your child to seek assistance from his/her teachers.

**SAFE2SAY SOUTH DAKOTA:** [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 2025):**

**Transcript Release Forms:** Seniors, need your transcript sent to a college? Fill out a transcript release form located on the BVHS website (under student tab). Your transcript will be sent to the school you list once you submit the online form.

**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 can 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 is 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, activity and club participation, 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. 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](#)**