

Here are some of the questions I received on Back to School Night, September 1. I believe many parents share these questions or similar ones and I wanted to share my responses with you.

1. *My student is not someone who easily seeks out clubs/activities: What support/opportunities can help break the ice (without her parents nagging her?)*
 - a. On Monday October 5, there was a Club Fair for students to learn about and then sign-up for a new club(s).
 - b. Panther TV regularly announces the time, location, and meeting topic for clubs and various activities. Encourage your student to pay close attention to Panther TV to learn about what is happening at BHS.

2. *What would you suggest for a new sophomore to your school? What is the best way to integrate into the school for someone who was not here last year?*
 - a. Participate, participate, participate. The best way to make the most of the BHS experience is to find a teacher or peer who is involved in an after school activity and ask them to come along at least once to check it out. This is the quickest and most productive way to integrate into the school by getting to know peers and faculty outside of the classroom environment.
 - b. Also, the counseling department can be a great help on a variety of topics. Be sure your student builds a relationship with their counselor beyond when a problem needs to be addressed.
 - c. Using the TAP time to let teachers get to know you a little better also seems to help students feel supported and like part of the community.

3. *What does BHS do to build community among students? What social/emotional programs do you have in place?*
 - a. We offer tons of clubs, activities and sports. We have the Panther Pride program to build bridges between freshmen and the upper classmen. Freshmen Seminar provides academic support, but is also an important “home base” for freshmen.
 - b. Boulder High is fortunate to have an interventionist, who is qualified to make referrals to outside sources of emotional support.
 - c. Counselors work with students to address their social and emotional concerns, and brainstorm life skills and resources that can be of support.

4. *What is the difference between the Assistant Principals' jobs and the Counselors' jobs in terms of who you go to based on your name?*

Counselors provide services in three domains: personal/social, academic, and college/career. They are available to help with some issues one on one, but provide many of the services in small groups, classroom settings and larger assemblies. There are specific activities that will take place each year for the various grade levels. If your student does not know where to go for help, have them begin with the counselor.

5. *Is the counselor [for my student] for this year only, or for all four? Are there college counselors as well?*

For all four. All of the counselors are members of the National Association for College Admissions Counseling, and will help students learn and use available resources to help with college/post-secondary planning.

6. *Do counselors work with parents and students or just with the students?*

Counselors work with parents and students to support the students.

7. *Student Seminar [probably Freshman Seminar] – Is it a class that needs to be signed up for or is part of the daily schedule?*

This course is assigned automatically to each freshman. The class occurs each Monday afternoon and is for credit. Freshman, along with Panther Pride Leaders, are required to attend.

8. *What is the largest acceptable class size for core classes?*

Whenever class size exceeds 32 the administrative team looks for alternatives to reduce the section load. Class size is not only a function of building FTE but student demand, the number of singletons (classes only taught once in the day), and the overall scheduling matrix (when courses in other departments are offered that like students also need to take).

9. *If our student has 1st period free, might there ever be something they may unknowingly miss such as all school events scheduled early?*

Rarely, if ever are school-wide events scheduled before or during period 1 and are well-publicized (winter and spring end of semester pancake breakfasts and the senior class picture taken 1st period in May).

10. *We are coming from another high school within BVSD. Last spring this high school had an “unannounced drill” as if there was an intruder. The students and parents were not made aware that such a drill was going to be held which contributed to significant stress of students and parents. Does Boulder High conduct such a drill and will we be notified ahead of time?*

Yes, we will conduct such drills and your student will receive notification ahead of time that it is only a drill.

11. *Are there any rules about off-campus lunch?*

Not at this time.

12. *What is TAP schedule and what is the purpose of it?*

Please visit this page of our website for information

<http://schools.bvsd.org/boulderhigh/programs/pride/freshmanseminar.aspx>