



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Career - Guest Speakers

If you're familiar with BBA, then you are likely familiar with **Research Week!**

This fall, students will be diving into college and career exploration activities and planning for their future. Life after high school is only a short time away for some of our students. For others, they have many years before reaching this point. Regardless of age or grade, learning about and planning for different careers, vocational programs, and post-secondary education opportunities is a valuable experience for all.



This **Research Week**, we'd like to *partner with parents, family, friends, and alumni* and *welcome individuals into the building throughout the week to speak with small groups of students about your career and the path you took to get there.* We're looking for a variety of speakers! Our students have many different interests, and we'd love to cover a wide range of possibilities for them to learn from. *If you are interested in being a guest speaker or know someone who would be interested in speaking with our students, please fill out the questions below, and we'll get in touch with further details.*

If you're interested in participating, [this Google form](#) is due by Tuesday, October 15th. After collecting responses, we'll need time to build a schedule and coordinate our speakers with other events happening during the week, so please be sure to submit the form on time!

If you have any questions about Research Week or this [Google Form](#), please reach out to Emma Lessard at elessard@benbronzacademy.org



Trunk or Treat November 2nd It's never too late for a little Halloween fun. Decorate your trunk or Donate some candy, treats, or prizes. Fill out the Google form attached and let us know [how you can help this community event happen.](#)

[Trunk or Treat RSVP](#)

Picture Retake Day 10/22/24

Just in case those smiles were not as bright as you wanted them to be, we have a retake day. Please access the attached flyer for information regarding the retakes.

[G&B Retake Flyer](#)



Yale School of Medicine Seeking Study Participants

The Yale Child Study Center is seeking participants for a study that may be of interest to some of our families. They are specifically looking for students between the ages of 12-19 who have autism spectrum disorder to participate in a treatment study of comprehensive therapy for irritability in autism. (CTIA). The Study provides a comprehensive assessment of autism and therapy for irritability at no cost to the families. Families also receive up to \$250 for participation. Inclusion criteria: students ages 12-19 who have autism spectrum disorder complicated by disruptive behaviors and who are capable of completing study procedures, including filling out questionnaires, participating in verbal therapy, and answering questions about symptoms and behaviors before and after treatment. Below, you will find the Flyer. If you have any questions, please contact Denis Sukhodolsky at 203-785-6446 or denis.sukhodolsky@yale.edu.



Comprehensive Therapy for Irritability in Teenagers with Autism Study

If you have a child who is 12 to 19 years old, has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and has significant levels of irritability and disruptive behavior, they may be eligible to participate in a free and confidential study. The study includes free assessment of autism at the Yale Child Study Center and up to 15 weekly sessions of therapy. *Compensation of up to \$250 for completion of the study.*

To learn more or to see if your child is eligible to participate, please contact Sydney Anderson at (203) 737-7662 or Dr. Denis Sukhodolsky at (203) 785-6446; or email sukhodolsky.lab@yale.edu.

Please note that participation requires in-person visits and we are only able to invite families residing within driving distance from New Haven, CT.

HIC #0102012121

HELP US DISCOVER | Be Part of Clinical Research at Yale.

Yale

Interested families can also contact the study coordinator, Ms. Sydney Anderson, at 203-737-7662 or shkhodolsky.lab@yale.edu.

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month

The Connecticut State Department of Education's Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities has collaborated with various state agencies to launch a year-long Dyslexia Awareness Campaign. This initiative includes a series of coordinated activities aimed at raising awareness and fostering a common understanding of dyslexia, with the objective of ensuring fair identification and support for students. The campaign kickoff and subsequent events will address topics such as:

- The spectrum of dyslexia, from early childhood through post-secondary education
- Structured literacy
- Assistive technology
- Social-emotional well-being
- Family engagement

Campaign Kickoff

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

6:00-8:00 p.m

Legislative Office Building, Hartford

ALL ARE WELCOME

Save the Date!

Connecticut State Department of Education

Statewide Dyslexia Awareness

CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month!


Come meet our partners and hear from students about why this campaign is so important to them!

When
 Tuesday, October 15, 2024
 6:00-8:00 p.m.
 Light refreshments available outside Room 1D/1st Floor Atrium 5:45-6:00 p.m.

Where
 Room 1D/1st Floor Atrium
 Legislative Office Building, Hartford

Who Should Attend
 This event is open to the public, including legislators, teachers and administrators, parents, and students

Registration
 Visit <https://forms.office.com/g/7bwz8jthYg> or scan the QR code to register.



Contact
 For more information, contact Aimee Gauvin at aimee.gauvin@ct.gov



The Connecticut State Department of Education's Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities has partnered with agencies from across the state to advance a year-long Dyslexia Awareness Campaign.

The campaign features a series of coordinated activities designed to promote awareness and a shared understanding of dyslexia, with the goal of ensuring equitable student identification and support.

Topics to be covered at the kickoff and throughout the campaign include equitable access to:

- the continuum of dyslexia, from birth to post-secondary education
- structured literacy
- assistive technology
- social-emotional well-being
- family engagement

The year-long calendar of dyslexia awareness activities, training, and resources focuses on educating the community about dyslexia and empowering professionals and families with the knowledge and skills needed to support students with dyslexia.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

On 10/8/2024, We Wear Red! BBA wore Red in honor of all who meet the challenges of dyslexia each day. Students and staff alike enjoyed an extra dress-down day.

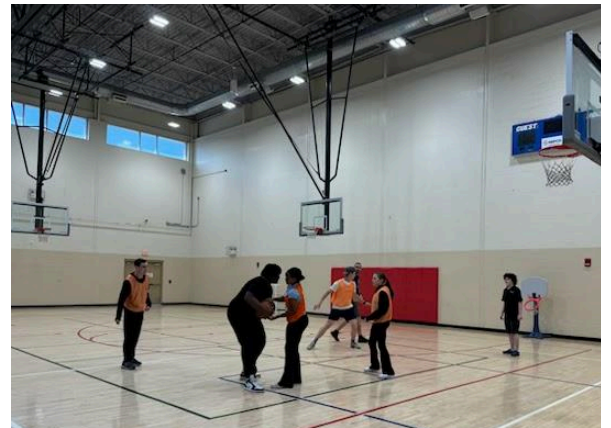


LOWER SCHOOL HAS BEEN OUT AND ABOUT

The Lower School students give their seal of approval to the van after they took it for their first outing to the JJC Playground, *Jonathan's Dream*. The students enjoyed the great weather and the amazing playscape. They are looking forward to more trips in the future.



JCC visits are underway for the upper school as well. Students have been rotating through to ensure all get the opportunity to use the BBA van and visit to either use the Gym space or access the fitness center and classes. We look forward to continuing to grow our collaboration with the JCC.



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Ben Bronz is signed up for Box Tops for Education this school year. This program allows you to raise money for student activities while buying products you already buy.

Please download the Box Top for Education app to your phone. Register and select Ben Bronz Academy, then open the app and scan your receipts when shopping.

Email Jim -- jimw@benbronzacademy.org -- with any questions or technical issues.



Student Innovation Sparks Virtual Reality Initiative at BBA

At Ben Bronz Academy, we take pride in seeing our students take the initiative to enhance not only their education but also the learning experiences of their peers. One of our students, Dylan, recently sparked an exciting new idea for our Maker Space by advocating for integrating Virtual Reality (VR) technology into our Library Media Center.



Dylan presented a well-researched and thoughtful proposal to the administration, demonstrating how VR could revolutionize learning by engaging students in subjects they might otherwise find less appealing. He emphasized VR's immersive and interactive nature, which opens up unique opportunities to make learning more dynamic and accessible.

In his proposal, Dylan shared that VR would benefit students by catering to their preference for hands-on learning. He noted, "At this school, students prefer hands-on stuff and would likely really like this Virtual Reality." He also pointed out that VR offers greater control over learning experiences, such as allowing students to manipulate the size of virtual objects, making the content more engaging and personalized.

Dylan didn't overlook potential challenges, either. He addressed concerns about the risk of overuse or discomfort, like nausea. He suggested practical solutions, such as setting time limits for younger students and gradually increasing the duration as they progress through the grades.

The administration is grateful to Dylan for his thoughtful and balanced proposal. Thanks to his research and vision, BBA is now actively seeking donations or leads to acquire VR sets to bring this project to life. We welcome any support in helping Dylan make this innovative vision a reality!

CHECK US OUT!

Your Guide to Local Area Schools

Ben Bronz Academy celebrates its 40th anniversary helping students who have struggled to learn




PHOTO SOURCE: BEN BRONZ ACADEMY

Ben Bronz Academy is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2025. Ben Bronz is a state-approved private special education school in West Hartford servicing students grades 2-12 from around the state who struggle to learn. The students have been

identified with various learning challenges, including: Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Dyscalculia, Executive Function Difficulties, ADHD, CAPD, and ASD (mild/Asperger's).

The school's goal is to help students correct their functional weaknesses and to develop strong, spontaneous thinking habits that build self-confidence, foster curiosity and an enthusiasm for learning. BBA was founded in 1985 with the belief that every student deserves to succeed. Since then, BBA has prepared more than 600 students for academic success. BBA's individualized learning program enables students to master learning skills, achieve academic success and enhance self-confidence.

BBA has hundreds of success stories of students returning to their district schools and transitioning to traditional private schools of their choosing. Former students have Bachelor's, Masters and other advanced degrees, served in the military and work in skilled trades.

"Ben Bronz Academy has been a gift to our son's academic development, and we are grateful," said former BBA parents Dava and Brett Siedman. "Our child has jumped multiple grade levels in just a year and a half of time." Ben Bronz built self-confidence with academic success, the Siedmans said. "He transitioned from not really caring about his grades to being proud of his grades, as well as himself."

Ben Bronz is a day school with 59 students as of September coming from 32 towns throughout Connecticut and Southern Massachusetts. BBA also offers summer sessions for students who attend during the school year and as a targeted boost for those who attend other schools.

Call Ben Bronz at (860) 236-5807 to discuss how BBA might help your student and to arrange a tour. Enrollment is rolling throughout the school year.

Please also consider supporting the nonprofit school with a tax-deductible donation through benbronzacademy.org/make-a-donation/ to support its amazing students.

REMINDER: NO SCHOOL ON OCTOBER 14th

School Spirit Day **WEAR ORANGE ON OCTOBER 23rd**

[2024-2025 School Year Calendar](#)

Upcoming events:

October 14, 2024	No School - Indigenous Peoples' Day
October 22, 2024	Picture Retake Date
October 25, 2024	12:30 dismissal- Mediator Professional Learning
October 29, 2024	Parent Engagement 7:30 v-Topic PowerSchool
November 2, 2024	Trunk or Treat- Set up @ 6:00
November 12, 2024	HSA 7:30 pm Virtual Meeting link
November 18-22, 2024	Research Week
November 22, 2024	Research Week Presentations & 12:30 dismissal for students Professional learning for Staff
November 25, 2024	12:30 Dismissal- Parent conferences 1-6
November 26, 2024	12:30 Dismissal- Parent conferences 1-4
November 27-29, 2024	Thanksgiving break

Next issue: 10/25/24