



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Welcome back, and Happy New Year!

We're excited to be back and ready to dive into the new year. As we settle back in after the break, **we want to remind families** that this is a time when illnesses tend to increase. Please encourage your child to practice good hygiene by washing their hands, covering their cough, and getting plenty of rest. If your child has a fever, please keep them home until they are fever-free for at least 24 hours before returning to school. Thank you for helping us keep everyone healthy!

Additionally,



As we kick off 2025, we invite the entire BBA community (students, families, and staff) to come together to reinforce the positive habits and expectations that support a focused and respectful learning

environment. Your partnership is vital in ensuring our students thrive, and we appreciate your help in discussing the following key reminders with your child at home.

To support meaningful instruction, we kindly ask for your assistance in reminding students of the importance of keeping phones out of sight during class and using headphones only during independent work, with explicit permission from their teacher. This helps students stay fully present and engaged during lessons.

We also encourage conversations about respecting teachers' directions and fostering a positive school environment by using school-appropriate language in the hallways, classrooms, and lunchrooms. These reminders go a long way in promoting a respectful and supportive atmosphere for everyone. We encourage a reminder to respect and accept the differences that

Tips To Stay Healthy During Flu Season

Vaccination = Prevention

- Getting your flu shot is the best way to avoid the virus.
- It takes 2 weeks for the vaccine to become effective.

Personal Hygiene

- Wash your hands with soap and water regularly.
- Avoid touching eyes, mouth, and nose.

Strengthen Immune System

- Get 7-8 hours of sleep.
- Eat healthy foods rich in nutrients.
- Exercise regularly.
- Stay hydrated, aiming for 8 glasses of water a day.

make us unique. Together, we'll emphasize the importance of being attentive during instruction, keeping personal devices out of sight, and maintaining a respectful tone when interacting with peers and staff.

While not every student has struggled with these expectations, we've noticed increased behaviors such as inappropriate language and disrespectful responses to staff. As a proactive measure, we're addressing these trends to ensure a positive learning experience for all.

We value the ongoing collaboration between home and school and invite families to join us in these discussions. We can set the students up for continued success in the new year.

Thank you for your support in creating a focused, respectful, and inclusive school community!

The ERate Survey via Messenger went out through a link in a text on 1/7/25. Please complete that survey via the link in your email or text message by 1/10/25. If you did not receive the survey, please reach out to Clamphere@benbronzacademy.org. This survey will provide information to help us qualify for discounts from the FCC on essential broadband services to schools and libraries in the U.S. Thanks to all who have already completed the survey,

The **New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. NEASC**) is an American educational organization that accredits private and public secondary schools (high schools and technical/career institutions), primarily in New England. We are currently in the process of completing an application to seek this accreditation.



Part of the application process involves parent and student surveys. We will be sending home parent/ family surveys via Messenger. Please keep an eye out for those in your email and texts. Please help us with our NEASC accreditation by completing the surveys.

PowerSchool Cyber Security Incident

Recently, communication went out via Messenger informing families of a cybersecurity incident on December 28th. Please see a copy of the communication below.

January 9, 2025

Dear Ben Bronz Families and Staff:

This message informs you of a cybersecurity incident on December 28, 2024, involving unauthorized access to certain information within PowerSchool, our Student Information System (SIS) provider.

PowerSchool notified us on Tuesday, January 7th, of a potential cybersecurity incident involving unauthorized access to certain information which occurred on December 28th within PowerSchool's

customer support portal. An unauthorized party accessed specific SIS customer data, including Ben Bronz Academy's data, through a compromised credential in PowerSchool's customer support portal. PowerSchool does not anticipate sharing or publicizing the data, and it believes it has been deleted without further replication or dissemination.

The information accessed includes data related to students, families, and educators.

PowerSchool immediately engaged its cybersecurity response team and law enforcement. The compromised credential was deactivated, and access to the affected portal has been restricted. An incident report from a 3rd party contracted by PowerSchool is expected by January 17th.

PowerSchool and Ben Bronz Academy are committed to providing support and transparency throughout this process. As more information becomes available, we will keep you informed.

We understand this news may cause concern and sincerely apologize for the incident. We are committed to protecting the privacy and security of your information and working closely with you to address any concerns you may have.

YEARBOOK ADS

There are two types of ADS available for purchase in this year's yearbook:

1. Dedication Pages:

Every family has the opportunity to create a dedication page (or page segment) to their child that will be included in the school yearbook. You will be able to personalize the space with pictures, along with a personal message. This is a special way to recognize your student in a lasting and memorable way.

2. BUSINESS ADS:

If you are a business owner and would like to advertise your business while supporting the BBA community, please consider doing so through the yearbook. This is a great way to highlight your business in a meaningful way.

If you are interested in participating, simply click the link below and follow the easy, step by step, instructions.

[Yearbook Forever](#)

The deadline for the personal ads is FEBRUARY 7th!

If you have any questions, please email Karen Zetoff at kzetoff@benbronzacademy.org

Walsworth yearbooks

2025 Ben Bronz Academy

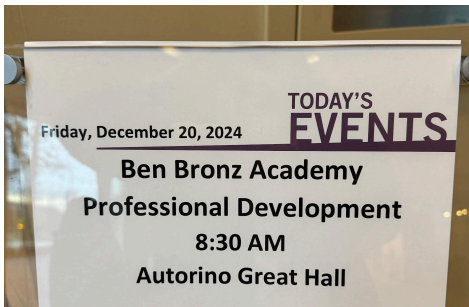
West Hartford, CT



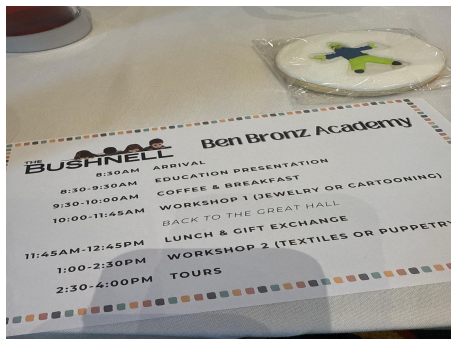
Student Council Corner: Community Service Project:

The Student Council is organizing its next community service through [GIFTS OF LOVE](#), an organization of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors." The students would like to focus our efforts on collecting warm winter items, including hats, gloves/mittens, and socks. Please help the Student Council collect 100 items, which they will then deliver to Gifts of Love. The deadline to donate items is January 24th.

Professional Learning retreat was a work of art.



On December 20th, the BBA staff embarked on an inspiring and creative adventure to gear up for the upcoming RESEARCH WEEK that our students will dive into this March. Students will have the exciting opportunity to visit the Bushnell for *Live Your Legacy: The Unauthorized Biographies*, a dynamic one-man show by Shaun Boothe. In this motivational performance, Boothe highlights the stories of some of modern history's most influential leaders, weaving together inspiration and the power of leadership.

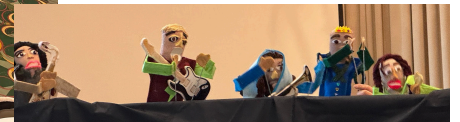
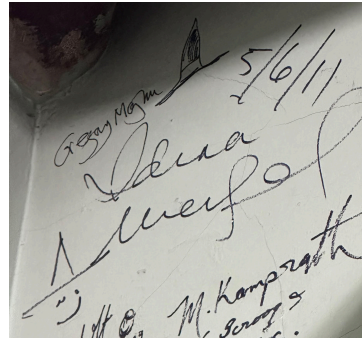
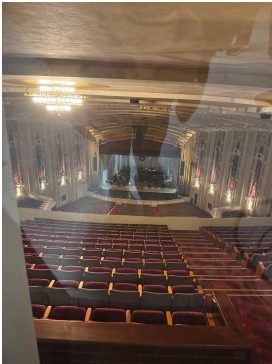


After the show, Bushnell's education department members will join us at BBA to guide students in unleashing their creative potential through various art forms, encouraging them to express themselves in meaningful ways. To ensure our teachers are ready for this incredible experience, we took a trip to the Bushnell to participate in the same workshops firsthand.

The day was nothing short of magical! The staff enjoyed an engaging workshop, followed by a delightful lunch, a tour of the iconic theater, and our beloved annual White Elephant gift exchange. And let's not forget the tradition of festive cookies that added a sweet touch to the day!

To top it all off, we were surprised with swag bags from the Bushnell, filled with thoughtful treats like coasters and post-it notes. A huge thank you to Kristen Davis and the Educational Team at the Bushnell for making this day so memorable and setting the stage for an incredible experience for our students. What a perfect send-off to winter break





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.



2024-2025 School Year Calendar

Upcoming events:

January 14-17, 2025	Exams
January 20, 2025	No School- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 27-31, 2025	iReady Assessments
January 28, 2025	Parent Engagement 7:30 pm Link and topic to follow
February 3-7, 2025	iReady Assessments
February 11, 2025	HSA Virtual- 7:30 HSA Link
February 14, 2025	No School for students - Full day PD for Staff
February 14-18, 2025	No School Winter Recess
February 25, 2025	Parent Engagement 7:30 pm Link and topic to follow
March 11, 2025	HSA Virtual- 7:30 HSA Link
March 25, 2025	Parent Engagement 7:30 pm Link and topic to follow
March 28, 2025	No School for students - Full day PD for Staff

Next issue: 1/24/25