



EA Report
Mr. Simonsen
BCCHS
January 2021

Distance Learning Plan Changes

BCCHS instituted new expectations for student participation and engagement in our programming during distance learning. Our inability to engage well with students, to know what they are thinking and how they are responding to our teaching, has been very challenging, so we made some adjustments:

1. Cameras are to be turned on during all conversations involving teachers. When students are working independently during class time, it is the teacher's discretion to allow students to have their cameras off.
2. Students are now engaged in asynchronous learning on Mondays. Every student is scheduled to meet with their Advisory Teacher to discuss their Project Based Learning project, as well as to provide feedback and support in academic content classes. This check-in gives our students personalized attention and support in one-on-one conferencing sessions so they feel connected, heard, supported, and guided.

MyPath

Our school has just purchased an intervention and remediation program that is aligned with our longitudinal periodic assessment growth data, which is generated through NWEA MAPS testing. MyPath takes student MAPS data and analyzes it for deficits in grade-level Reading and Math skills. It then generates a personalized growth plan along with activities to build the missing skills sets, and those activities are available 24/7. The programming extends from grade 3 through grade 12, so there are no skills that cannot be addressed. It is our hope that this initiative will both empower students to perform better in their common core classes, but also serve as an SBAC test preparation program.

V.A.L.U.E. Learning Outcomes

The AACU, a collaborative, interdisciplinary consortium of educators from colleges and universities around the United States, developed a set of rubrics that articulate exactly what undergraduate students should know and be able to once they graduate from their undergraduate programs. They called it the Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education (V.A.L.U.E.). BCCHS has been using these rubrics to guide and inform our development of Mastery Rubrics since we started the school in 2015. Now, we have translated these rubrics into student-friendly rubrics for use by our teachers to begin instilling these skills in our students as they spiral through high school. The skills will be taught and assessed in all content areas, and will serve as the primary metric of academic progress for the students' PBL work. There are 16 V.A.L.U.E. skills that the AACU has identified, and BCCHS is implementing [8 of them](#) this semester: Reading, Written Communication, Oral Communication, Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking, Integrative Learning, Inquiry and Analysis, and Problem Solving.

IEP Testing at BCCS

In an effort to support our students with special needs, BCCHS is welcoming students to the BCCS campus for Educational and Psychological testing in preparation for triennial IEP meetings. While the setup is a bit awkward, the in-person context allows students to feel comfortable, safe, and cared for in a way they have not for almost a year. Mr. Nutt and Ms. Castañeda are facilitating this testing.

College Applications

All eligible seniors at BCCHS have applied to either CSU or UC university systems, and are in the process of participating in applications for private schools. Among the regular yearly private partner colleges and universities who offer admissions to our students each year, Mt. St. Marys, Grand Canyon University, and Woodbury University are scheduled to host virtual “on campus admissions” days to recruit our students and discuss financial aid. All students who are eligible for admissions receive support to complete a FAFSA student aid application so that families have a transparent offer of financial aid at their disposal as they decide where a student will matriculate. Mr. Garcia and the Gear Up team are highly committed and organized in their efforts to help **all** BCCHS graduates apply for a post-secondary program of one form or another. We have already received news that our students have been accepted to several CSU schools for this fall. This is tremendously validating for all of us.

LA County Health Visit in December

Thanks to the hard work of Susan Castrellon, Jose Gonzalez, and support from Diana Gamez, BCCHS passed the COVID-Reopening evaluation visit from the LA County Department of Public Health. This means we are on a list of schools who have been approved, from a health and readiness perspective, for reopening and serving students with strict COVID protocols in place. As we are a prop-39 school, we cannot begin reopening until LAUSD allows it, but we are ready, and I am very proud of our team for taking on this important task with such a high level of attention to detail and professionalism.

Recruitment

We have 18 students enrolled for the fall semester of next school year. We have begun recruitment efforts between the teachers of BCCS and BCCHS. Our teachers are being welcomed into 8th grade classrooms to connect with and get to know the current group of 8th grade students at BCCS. Our hope is that this new open and encouraging approach to recruiting will result in a larger freshmen class than we have seen the past few years. Our highly student-centered approach to working with our students is both contagious and attractive once students get to know us. Our current 9th and 10th grade students are also going to be joining our efforts, and they are by far our best spokespeople. The ownership these students feel for BCCHS is deeply gratifying, and we hope it convinces the middle school families to invest in our school.