



EA Report  
Mr. Simonsen  
BCCHS  
October 22, 2021

## **Academics**

Students from BCCHS recently finished leading their own conferences, in conversation with their parents and their advisors. These conversations, known as Student Led Conferences (SLC), equip and empower students to take maximum ownership of their own educational choices and results. It takes them out of the passive, victim role that often characterizes typical Parent-Teacher Conferences, in which the student is a bystander while the teacher and parent talk in terms of superlative academic orientation (“oh she’s just heads and tails above her peers, truly gifted”) or a lack of compliance (“he just won’t listen, and doesn’t turn in his work”). Student Led Conferences place the student in the driver’s seat of the conversation. If the student fails to offer a truthful version of engagement and progress, or is earnestly disoriented as to why they are progressing in a certain manner, the advisor (one of the BCCHS teachers) is there to provide coaching and support so that the student can successfully lead the conversation. Every member of the BCCHS Team, regardless of job title, highly affirms these conferences as the best practice for building the capacity students need to become truly college-ready and independent young adults. I was particularly impressed with the new staff’s ability to learn and participate so quickly, but this success speaks to the inherent resonance that everyone seems to experience through the process; it just feels right and best. 10 week report cards are going out to parents this week.

## **College Readiness**

Max Garcia has been engaged in conversations with multiple members of the YPICS Leadership Team as he creates new strategies for helping BCCHS push through its current college persistence ceiling. He currently has a college trip to local CSUs planned for November, and is enrolling our school in SoCal Can, a support and access network for building resilience, confidence, and capacity in college-going students from low-income families who may not have generations of college experience to draw on. Our current cohort of seniors does not have a Gear Up grant associated with it, and the college application process requires hundreds of hours of individual coaching in order to help each and every applicant from our school successfully apply to all the schools they have identified for themselves. Our hope is to leverage the experience, connections, and resources of those on the YPICS Leadership Team to garner the support Max needs to provide those many hours to all of our qualified seniors.

## **Climate and Culture**

BCCHS just participated in the Great Shake drill that was executed at campuses all over California this week. We have a well crafted strategy for all aspects of responding to a real emergency, including newly updated emergency supplies (October distribution) in every classroom and a revised search and rescue strategy with highly trained staff members. Our most outstanding need is to make sure that all staff have been retrained in CPR/First Aid. Many of our team members are out of date on these trainings, and we are working on a vendor to provide them during our Monday PD meetings.

WE ARE THRILLED to see the return of athletics to campus. Our girls volleyball team has been playing a number of charter schools from the SF Valley, and our new basketball coach (community volunteer) has been aggressively recruiting and training a boys basketball team. Our new PE teacher, volleyball coach, and Athletic Director, Stuart Cowie, is a former semi-pro soccer player and youth club champion golfer from Scotland. His passion for sport and training youth is a spectacular fit for our students, and although we have not won every volleyball match, our students are improving in their skill sets with every practice.

A new addition to the CIF sports scene, E-Sports, is also now a part of the BCCHS sports profile. Rick Benavides, an experienced E-Sports coach, has taken on this endeavor (in addition to being an outstanding new Visual and Media Arts instructor... he has turned the VMA space into a legitimate design and fabrication facility).

This week we will launch the new BCCHS Knights Swag Store online, a storefront provided by Squadlocker.com, so all Knights students, staff, and families can shop for new BCCHS merchandise and wear it with pride. The merchandise will ship directly to the address provided by the customer, so the school is not involved financially in the transactions. The merchandise looks amazing online, so we're hoping it looks just as good walking around campus on our team.

## **Operations**

Covid testing has been smooth as of late, with a significant increase in the support provided by the testing agency. Things changed dramatically in September when a whole crew of nurses and assistants started showing up on campus on Wednesday mornings. BCCHS has had very few positive tests since the first few weeks of school, and none in October. One thing we have noticed is an annoying tendency for saliva tests to be rejected due to viscosity or food contamination, and we've discussed asking the company for a more significant nasal swab test effort. We have to spend significant money on short-response tests that we administer in the office to students who have rejected tests from FlowHealth.

Infinite Campus is proving to be a much more significant challenge to YPICS than we anticipated in the spring. BCCHS teachers are continuing to require significant support in order to complete routine tasks, and our ops team is regularly identifying tasks for which they do not have either protocols or permissions. The customer support approach of the Infinite Campus team is, in my opinion, creating a bottleneck of requests and a diminished capacity for the staff to learn the new SIS. Illuminate was a phone call away any time we needed them. Our staff is constantly having to wait on a response via a complicated "case" system, or hunting and pecking through knowledge base articles to figure things out. I think we need a new approach to customer support in order for our org to implement this new system effectively.

