

Reminders - January 2020

BCPS CALENDAR CHANGE:

The Broward County School Board at its October 15, 2019 meeting unanimously approved a revision to the 2019/20 school year calendar to move the early release day scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2020 to Friday, February 14, 2020.

The School Board voted in support of the request, which was presented by the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Commemoration Planning Committee and the Calendar Committee, and also included designated February 14th as A Day of Service and Love across Broward County Public Schools.

Broward College Dual Enrollment Update:

We are super excited to announce that the Dual Enrollment Team here at Broward College has officially hired a Student Success Coach (advisor) just for the dual enrollment students. His name is Anthony Stephen.

Please see the attached flyer for details on his location each day as he is rotating campuses to try to be available to students across the district. This opportunity for students will allow them to obtain one-on-one information about college degree requirements.

Please note, this is "By Appointment Only". This means that a student will need to contact him by phone or email to make an appointment to meet with him via skype, phone or in person. (See the attached BC Advisement Flyer)

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SERVICES UPDATES:

If you have a student in ninth or tenth grade, please contact Ms. Fussell with any questions or concerns at tamika.fussell@browardschools.com
Any eleventh or twelfth grade concerns can be directed to Mrs. Olagbemi at Juliet-annolagbemi@browardschools.com

For ESE related concerns, Ms. Jackson can help you. Her email address is andrea.jackson@browardschools.com.

For any bus related concerns, please email Ms. Madoo with as much detail as possible. Her email address is ingrid.madoo@browardschools.com

Additionally, the district has created an online opportunity to submit absences. More information to follow in next week's email. For now, you can send the email to Ms. Headley at dagean.headley@browardschools.com

In all cases, please remember to include the student's name, date of birth or FSI number/student number, your name, and phone number. Also, please allow 24 to 36 hours to respond.

*For attendance, include date and reason for absence. *

If you need any additional support, feel free to email Ms. Henry at Lillie.henry@browardschools.com. I can direct you to whomever can best answer your question or concern.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Museum of Discovery and Science – See Volunteer Flyer HS 2018 on the attachments.

CENTERPLATE at Hard Rock Stadium – parents and students needed. Please email Lillie.henry@browardschools.com if you are interest for more information.

FOCUS PASSWORD RESET:

McFatter Tech uses FOCUS instead of PINNACLE. The website to access grades is <https://broward.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/> . All student passwords in Focus have been reset and changed to follow the SBBC nomenclature.

- This means that all student passwords are now **PMM/DD/YYYY**
- **Students will no longer use YYYYMMDD as their password**

- A capital letter P followed by the month/day/year, including the slashes.
 - **Example if today is your birthday: P08/13/2019**

INPUT INTO 2019-2020 EVALUATIONS:

In accordance with Florida Statute 1012.34, parents have a right to provide input into the performance evaluations of instructional and/or administrative employees. Parents interested in providing input into the performance evaluations of William T. McFatter Technical College or Technical High School instructional and/or administrative evaluations many contact our office at (754) 321-5700 by April 10, 2020.

Please contact Employee Evaluations at 754-321-5067, should you need additional information.

SAFETY AND SECURITY:

In accordance of district policy, all visitors to campus, including parents of high school students, will be required to go to the admissions office when stepping on campus to clear the STAR system. You will be required to present identification to receive your visitor's badge. Please allow additional time to get through the clearance process when coming to pick up your student or to attend a meeting. Thank you for your understanding.

National Cyber Security Awareness Safety Tips:

Phishing attacks use email or malicious websites to infect your machine with malware and viruses in order to collect personal and financial information. Cybercriminals attempt to lure users to click on a link or open an attachment that infects their computers, creating vulnerability to attacks. Phishing emails may appear to come from a real financial institution, e-commerce site, government agency, or any other service, business, or individual. The email may also request personal information such as account numbers, passwords, or Social Security numbers. When users respond with the information or click on a link, attackers use it to access users' accounts.

HOW CRIMINALS LURE YOU IN

Attackers use creative ways to trick you, here are some examples of attack emails that we have seen:

- "We suspect an unauthorized transaction on your account. To ensure that your account is not compromised, please click the link below, and confirm your identity."
- "During our regular verification of accounts, we couldn't verify your information. Please click here to update and verify your information."
- "Our records indicate that your account was overcharged. You must call us within 7 days to receive your refund."

HOW TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM

- **Play hard to get with strangers.** Links in email and online posts are often the way cybercriminals compromise your computer. If you're unsure who an email is from—even if the details appear accurate—do not respond, and do not click on any links or attachments found in that email. Pick up a phone, call the person on a known good phone number.
- **Think before you act.** Be wary of communications that implore you to act immediately. Many phishing emails attempt to create a sense of urgency, causing the recipient to fear their account or information is in jeopardy. If you receive a suspicious email that appears to be from someone you know, reach out to that person directly on a separate secure platform. If the email comes from an organization but still looks "phishy," reach out to them via customer service to verify the communication. Don't use the phone number provided on with phish email – it may be to the attacker.
- **Protect your personal information.** If people contacting you have key details from your life—your job title, multiple email addresses, full name, and more that you may have published online somewhere—they can attempt a direct spear-phishing attack on you. Cyber criminals can also use social engineering with these details to try to manipulate you.

- **Be wary of hyperlinks.** Avoid clicking on hyperlinks in emails and hover over links to verify authenticity – where is the link going, an attacker can mimic a website – always look at the full URL.
- **Shake up your password protocol.** Change passwords regularly, use longer complex passwords or passphrases. Get creative and customize your standard password for different sites, which can prevent cyber criminals from gaining access to these accounts and protect you in the event of a breach.