

# Brien McMahon High School

## Mission Statement

Brien McMahon High School will provide a supportive environment that will enable all students to grow academically and personally so that they will be able to contribute to society. We will teach, encourage and model respect and responsibility. We will challenge all students to demonstrate high levels of achievement, using clearly defined standards, as they become self-directed, life-long learners.

## Academic Expectations

Students will:  
Read both fiction and nonfiction with comprehension; write effectively, using standard English, for a variety of purposes and audiences; demonstrate knowledge and application of basic concepts of arithmetic, geometry, measurement and algebra; demonstrate an understanding of basic scientific principles

## Social & Civic Expectations

Students will:  
Demonstrate honesty, dependability and self-control; assume responsibility for their behavior and consider the possible consequences of their actions; demonstrate respect for all members of the school community; be positive representatives of their school; contribute to the extra-curricular and co-curricular life of the school; respect the property of others, including school property; be constructive members of the larger community; develop an understanding of the importance of each individual to the improvement of the quality of life for all in the community; understand and appreciate their historical and ethnic heritage as well as the heritage of others within the larger community; understand how social and governmental policies, programs and procedures affect their lives.

## School Information

Brien McMahon High School is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges\* and has an impressive history of student accomplishments in academic and extra-curricular fields. \*2007 Re-accreditation met high standards.

The Center for Global Studies (CGS), an inter-district magnet school, offers Japanese, Chinese, and Arabic language, history, and literature through inter-disciplinary Asian study featuring an annual student exchange program with high schools in Japan and China. Visit their website for further information: [www.centerglobalstudies.org](http://www.centerglobalstudies.org)

## School Information - continued

- Highly competitive athletic programs have brought pride and tradition to Brien McMahon, winning many county (FCIAC) and state (CIAC) championships. Refer to the Norwalk Public Schools Athletics Handbook for participation guidelines. Contact BMHS Athletic Director, Joe Madaffari at ext. 11246.

**Sports schedules on the website:** [www.fciac.net](http://www.fciac.net)

- Award-winning music programs produce championship level opportunities for the band, choral, orchestra, and theatrical groups.
- The Library Media Center provides learning resources and information technology.
- NJROTC: Naval Science courses offer military leadership training and service programs.
- School-to-Career programs prepare students for successful transition to work and opportunity for career development.
- Career Center features resource information and guidance for college and vocations.
- Robert Appleby School-Based Health Center provides on-site student medical services.
- On-site Child Development Center offers pre-school experience with 3-4 yr. old children.
- University of Connecticut and Norwalk Community College Co-op Programs provide college credits for high school seniors.
- Students can join student clubs, extra-curricular activities, and community service groups. See back page for complete listing of BMHS clubs.

## Attendance Policy Summary\*

If a student is absent, parent/guardian must write a note excusing the absence, which the student submits to the Attendance Office within 24 hrs. upon return to school.

**•Students are only allowed seven (7) excused absences\*; upon the eighth (8th) excused absence a denial of credit is issued by the Housemaster for the marking period.**

•Any combination of (8) excused absences or tardy(s) results in a denial of credit. Parents will be contacted on the 4th excused absence.

• Two unexcused tardy(s) to a class will count as one unexcused absence. Each excused tardy to the first period class counts toward the total of eight absences.

•Three (3) unexcused absences (no notes) or not reporting (skipping) to a class results in a denial of credit.

•Students must report to the attendance office if they arrive after the 7:30 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> period tardy bell.  
\*Exception note: prolonged absence due to medical reasons with an approved doctor's excuse. Note must be presented within 5 days upon return to school.

**\*Refer to the Norwalk Public Schools Student Handbook for complete attendance and denial of credit policies.**

## Course Offerings

Honors level, advanced placement, and elective courses offer a wide variety of academic options.

**Art:** Art, Drawing, Photography, Sculpture/Crafts Studio Art, Advanced Placement Art

**Business:** Accounting, Word Processing, Computer Literacy, Computer Construction-Repair, Internet, Web Page Design, Personal Banking & Finance, Business Law, Business Management, Business Math, Int'l Business, Entrepreneurship, Sports Marketing.

**English:** English, Literature, Journalism, Creative Writing, Psychology in Literature, Dramatic Experience, Film & Media

## Family & Consumer Sciences:

Child Development I & II, Hotel/Restaurant Management, Food Service Careers

**Mathematics:** Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, Computer Applications, Bus. Math, Logic, Math/Society/Employment, Probability/Statistics

**Music:** Choir, Voice, Chamber Singers, Choral Ensemble, Orchestra, Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Harmony & Theory

## NJROTC: Naval Science and Leadership

**Physical Education:** Phys. Ed./Health Education

**Science:** Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, Marine Biology, Physics, Astronomy, Ecology, Anatomy, Environmental Mgmt., Forensics, Meteorology

**Social Studies:** World History, U.S. History, European History, History in the Making, Current Issues, Economics, Civics, Sociology, Psychology, Comparative Politics, Documentary Film Making, Comparative Religions, African American History, Government & Politics

**World Languages:** French, Spanish, Italian, Latin, Language/Literature –Honors/AP

**Bi-Lingual/ESOL Language/History**

**\*Center for Global Studies:** Chinese, Japanese, Arabic Language/History (Refer to CGS Brochure)

\*Refer to the Norwalk Public Schools Guide to Subject Offerings for requirements and description of courses.

## Graduation Requirements

- Reaching proficiency level on Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) as mandated by the Conn. State Education Dept.
- 20 Credits – 16 credits from required subjects:
  - 4 Credits in English **and** 3 Credits each: Mathematics, Science, Social Studies\* (\*1 World History, 1 U.S History, ½ Civics Required)
  - 1 Credit: Physical Ed. - ½ Credit Health Ed.
  - ½ Credit Computer Literacy (may test out of)
  - 1 Credit in the Arts from: Art, Music, Business, or Family & Consumer Science
  - 4 Credits from Electives (Art/Music/Language)

## Course Requirements

### Required Core Subjects

### Electives

**Grade 9: Students must take at least 6 ½ credits**

English	Art
Algebra	Music
General Science	World Languages
World History	Business Education
Physical Education	Family & Consumer Sciences
Health Education	NJROTC

**Grade 10: Students must take at least 6 credits**

English	Art – Music - NJROTC
Geometry	English Elective
Biology	World Languages
U.S. History	Family & Consumer Sciences
Physical Education	Business Education
Health Education	

**Grade 11: Students must take at least 6 credits**

English 3	Art – Music - NJROTC
Mathematics	English Elective
Science	World Languages
Civics (½)	Social Studies Elective
Economics (½)	Family & Consumer Sciences
Physical Education	Business Education
Health Education	

**Grade 12: Students must take at least 5½ credits and pass 4 credits in order to graduate.**

English 4	Art – Music - NJROTC
Mathematics	World Languages
Social Studies	Business Education
Science	Family & Consumer Science

\*Refer to the Norwalk Public Schools Guide to Subject Offerings for graduation requirements and to the NPS High School Guidebook and Handbooks for NPS policies.

## Norwalk Public Schools

The Norwalk Public School district is comprised of 19 public schools serving 11,000 students who represent a rainbow of races, nationalities, and cultural backgrounds. An active parent community brings hundreds of volunteers into city schools for a variety of curriculum-enhancing activities. A well-established link between business and schools attracts mentors from area corporations into city schools to sponsor children and strengthen business-education ties. The Norwalk Public School district is a vibrant educational community committed to standards of excellence in the classroom.

### Department Chairpersons - Contact Information:

To e-mail: last name, first initial @norwalkps.org

Art: Sheila Wolfe Athletics: Joseph Madaffari  
 Business: Jean Bunce English: Ellen Gaber  
 Guidance: Karen Amaker  
 Family & Consumer Sciences: Janet Sell  
 Math: Toms O'Neil Music: Ronald Secchi  
 Science: Tom Seuch Special Ed.: Patricia Mencucci  
 Phys. Ed.: Tory Sullivan ROTC: Lt. Col. Killackey  
 Social Studies: Beverly McFadden  
 World Language: Rita Leonardi

### Center for Global Studies

Roz McCarthy, Director  
 (203) 852-9488 ext. 11007  
[www.centerglobalstudies.org](http://www.centerglobalstudies.org)



### Superintendent of Norwalk Public Schools:

*Dr. Susan Marks*

### Assistant Superintendent:

Secondary Education,  
 Curriculum & Instruction  
*Anthony Daddona*



For updated information calendar of events, School Handbook, Guide to Subject Offerings, Athletics Handbook and Forms, visit the Norwalk Public Schools website:  
[www.norwalkpublicschools.org](http://www.norwalkpublicschools.org)  
 Norwalk Public Schools Information Hotline:  
**203-854-4123** for updates on school closings

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## BMHS Parents' Club

supports and enhances the school community



- Monthly meetings providing a forum for discussion of school issues and topics presented by administration and faculty.
  - Financial scholarships awarded annually.
  - Donations to various student clubs at BMHS.
  - Fundraisers include Fashion Show, Clothing Drives, Norwalk Oyster Festival
  - Post-grad party (PGP-Safe Haven) for graduates
- Co-Presidents: Karen Pace & Kathy Seiden  
 e-mail [BMHSParent.Club@gmail.com](mailto:BMHSParent.Club@gmail.com) with your e-mail address to receive weekly updates.  
 Other areas of parent involvement include:

### Voices of Immigrant Parents

Principal and members of the Peace Project discuss academic issues in Spanish, with interested parents bi-monthly workshops are offered.

*Spanish Translator available Tues-Thurs 9 am-2pm. Call 203-852-9488 ext. 11028 for an appointment.*

### Senators Marching Band

BMHS is proud of its talented, award-winning Senators Marching Band. An active Parents' Club coordinates fundraising events, supervises travel and oversees the band organization. For more information call ext. 11127 or [www.bmhsband.org](http://www.bmhsband.org)

### Brien McMahon High School Clubs

**Clubs/Activities Faculty Advisor**  
**African-American Culture Club:** Paulette Pinn  
**ANNALES (Yearbook):** Shelia Wolfe/Pat Morabito  
**Best Buddies:** Andrea Arnold **Chess:** M. Cosmas  
**Build-On:** Rebecca Dombrowski  
**Center for Youth Leadership-SCF:** Bob Kocienda  
**Junior Statesmen of America:** Alex Meli  
**Drama Club & Tri-M Honor Society:** Frank Arcari  
**Class Advisors:**  
 Gr. 12: N. Metwally/N. Stockfish  
 Gr. 11: R. Ayala/E. Ahern  
 Gr. 10: K. Prescott/J. Stabach  
**Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA):** TBD  
**World Languages:** M. Belcher/M. Vidoli  
**Haitian Club:** N. Metwally **Italian Club:** F. Dattilo  
**Model UN:** Peter Sommer **Ping-Pong:** S. Driscoll  
**National Honor Society:** Stephen Hofheimer  
**Podium Newspaper:** Rebecca Dombrowski  
**SAGA:** A. Catalano **Science Olympiad:** Ms. K.C.

### Important School Phone Numbers\*

<b>Main Office:</b> (203) 852-9488	<b>Fax:</b> (203) 899-2813
<b>Extension:</b>	<b>Extension:</b>
Athletics: 11246	Library: 11175
Attendance Office: 11419	Nurses Office: 11228
Bookkeeping Office: 11321	Principal: 11329
Housemasters: 11331	Psychologist: 11298
Global Studies: 11007	Social Worker: 11308
Guidance: 11301	Spanish Translator: 11028
SBHC Health Center: 11210	School-to-Career: 11303
Norwalk Public Schools Superintendent's Office: 854-4001	
* To send e-mail: last name, first initial @norwalkps.org	
<b>*Housemasters:</b>	<b>Ext. House/Grade Assignment</b>
Scott Hurwitz 11403	~ Grade 10
Mary Michailidis 11331	~ Grade 12
Patrick Milling 11400	~ Grade 9
Barbara Wood 11402	~ Grade 11
Roz McCarthy, Director 11007 Center for Global Studies	

Students are assigned to Guidance Counselors based on grade/house and student last name, as listed below.

Counselor Assignment/Grade - Alphabetical by last name

Counselor:	Ext.	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
K. Amaker	11299	A-Gon	--	--	--
M. Sansolo	11305	--	A-Dud	A-Cru	A-Cru
G.D'Onofrio	11300	--	Jin-Ore	Jad-Nav	Jad-Nav
E. Gratrix	11306	--	Dud-J1m	Crv-Jac	Crv-Jac
D. Leeds	11317	Goo-Z	--	--	--
D. Tejada	11311	--	Orf-Ssz	Naw-Sot	Naw-Sot
C. Southerland	11307	*CGS-BMHS/NHS	Sou-Z	*	*
J.Castelluzzo	11297	CGS-OD**	Sta-Z	**	Sou-Z **
*CGS: Center for Global Studies - **CGS Out of District					

To e-mail: last name, first initial @norwalkps.org

### BMHS Special Events Calendar 2011-2012\*

August 31: 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School - Grade 9 only  
 September 1: 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School - Grades 10-12  
 September 5: No School - Labor Day  
 September 13: Orientation Night for Parents  
 September 17: Marching Band Celebration of Sound  
 September 29: No School - Rosh Hashanah  
 October 10: No School - Columbus Day  
 November 8: No School - Professional Day/Election Day  
 Nov. 24-25: Thanksgiving Recess  
 December 26 - Jan. 2 Holiday Recess  
 January 16: No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
 February 17, 20-21: Winter Recess  
 March 23: Professional Day - April 6: Good Friday  
 April 16-20: Spring Recess  
 May 11: Junior Prom May 28: Memorial Day  
 June 1: Senior Prom June 6-12: 2 hr. Early Dismissal\*  
 \* Graduation TBD Last Day of School: *June 12-Tentative*

\*For updated calendar of events, visit the website:  
[www.norwalkpublicschools.org](http://www.norwalkpublicschools.org) - BMHS  
 Click under schools/Brien McMahon

## Brien McMahon High School



*"Home of the Senators"*

## School Information Guide

Suzanne Brown Koroshetz, Principal

### Housemasters:

Scott Hurwitz  
 Mary Michailidis  
 Patrick Milling  
 Barbara Wood

### Guidance Counselors:

Karen Amaker, Chair  
 John Castelluzzo  
 Elaine Gratrix  
 Dawn Leeds  
 Grace D'Onofrio  
 Marcy Sansolo  
 Chad Southerland  
 Daniela Tejada

### Center for Global Studies

Roz McCarthy, Director

### Athletic Director:

Joseph Madaffari

### School to Career

Denise Evon/Lisa Riveccio

### Dr. Robert Appleby

### School-Based Health Center:

Julia Sparkman, A.P.R.N.

### School Nurse:

Barbara Lialios, R.N.

### Social Worker:

Andrea Arnold  
 Rhonda Ginsburg

### School Psychologist:

Samuel Ralston

### Brien McMahon High School

300 Highland Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06854

Phone (203) 852-9488 Fax (203) 899-2813

[www.norwalkpublicschools.org](http://www.norwalkpublicschools.org)

(Schools/select Brien McMahon)