FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Early College Students, Parents, and Stakeholders:

Our Fall Semester is well underway, and many exciting events have been happening at BCEC. This newsletter is the first in a series that will highlight school events and accomplishments of our students and teachers.

We continue to be extremely proud of the high-quality teaching and learning that happens in our classrooms each day. BCEC once again earned a grade of "A" for the 2016-2017 school year based on key measures of student performance.

In addition to our academic focus, one of the key features of our school is to create authentic learning experiences outside the classroom so that students can explore relevant connections between academics and college, careers and community. This newsletter showcases many of these experiences that are designed to change possibilities for our students’ futures.

Thanks to each of you reading this newsletter for being a part of BCEC and our powerful learning community.

Donna Lanahan, Principal

FROM THE CLASSROOM

UNCA and WCU College Visits

All year one students visited UNCA on October 17 and were presented with an informative talk by Nate Corbitt, Campus Visit Coordinator. The students also experienced a student ambassador-led walking tour of the campus.

"UNCA made me think more about my future and what it holds. Learning about what UNCA offered was fun to see and learn about. I liked that it was a small campus." – BCEC Year One Student

All year two students spent a lovely day at WCU on October 20. The students had a great student ambassador who toured students around campus and shared great information about college life.

Coffee with the Commissioners

Fourth-year students Gabby Bailey, Diana Botner, Jessica Khavrunyak, and Ryan Rich attended a Buncombe County Board of Commissioners Coffee with the Commissioners meeting Thursday, Oct. 20. As part of a Civics project, the students attended the meeting to ask commissioners questions about the topics of their Civic Action Project and to see government officials at work. The commissioners are considering holding their next Coffee with Commissioners meeting at BCEC.

Educators in Industry Day

A BCEC team of educators participated in the Educators in Industry – Make it Happen, Make it Successful: Enhancing Pathways in Advanced Manufacturing day October 3, 2017. This day of learning cast a spotlight on the impact Advanced Manufacturing has on the local economy and how educators can help prepare all students for both college and careers by connecting learning in the classroom with real-world applications in the workplace.
FIELD STUDY VISITS

All year one students and teachers conducted field study visits on Monday, October 2 in preparation for a cross-curricular local environmental impact studies project.

Students visited four different sites in Buncombe County:

- **Metropolitan Sewerage District** of Buncombe County (sewage/septic treatment, water quality and runoff issues)
- **Warren Wilson College** (sustainable agriculture, low-impact living and LEED building)
- **Grove Stone & Sand** (sustainable mining practices)
- **The Long Branch Environmental Education Center** (sustainable agriculture, soil conservation and water quality/runoff issues)

Students were assigned roles on collaborative teams who used this opportunity to make connections between the focus of the field study visit and the concepts they are learning in their classes.

The teams were:

- Connection Team
- Data Team
- Innovators Team
- Inquiry Team
- Video Team

FROM THE FIELD/COMMUNITY

We believe it is important for students to hear from a diversity of voices from our community, and BCEC has hosted three guest speakers so far this Fall:

- **Jerry VeHaun**, Director of the Buncombe County Emergency Management. Mr. VeHaun has served as Director since 1972 and is an internationally certified Emergency Manager. Mr. VeHaun visited the BCEC Civics classes and discussed how local government officials collaborate to ensure the safety of the citizens of Buncombe County.
- **Eric Roubinek**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History at UNCA spoke to all BCEC year two students about the Holocaust. Dr. Roubinek shared his expertise in the History of Modern Germany and helped students understand this period of History.
- **Megan Lemmond**, Career Exploration Consultant from Mission Hospital visited the Medical Careers Interest Group and presented information on how BCEC students can pursue a rewarding career in the medical field.

UPCOMING EVENTS/NEWS

- **November 10** -- Veteran’s Day Holiday -- No School
- **November 13** -- Pre-ACT for year two students
  Eagles’ Wings Meeting at 6:00
- **November 15** -- All-School Meeting at 12:35
- **November 17** -- Picture Make-Ups
- **November 22-24** -- Thanksgiving Holiday
- **December 8** -- Early Release
- **December 18-19** -- Fall Semester Testing
- **December 20-January 1** -- Holiday Break
FROM OUR FACULTY & STAFF

After over a decade of service to Buncombe County Early College and Middle College as assistant principal, Cindy Little retired as at the end of October. We wish Ms. Little all the best as she finds her next adventure.

Now we welcome Ms. Jill Lightner, who will serve as our interim assistant principal through the end of this school year. Here’s her introductory message:

“I am very excited to be part of the Early College/Middle College family. I received my BA from Mars Hill University and my MSA from Western Carolina University. I was a classroom teacher for 26 years enjoying the daily interaction with students. Before coming here, I worked alongside the staff at Cane Creek Middle School as their Assistant Principal.

I have a wonderful family which I love to spend time with. My husband and I love college football and can be found many spring weekends enjoying life on the lake. I have two wonderful daughters who have given me two amazing ‘sons in love’. The most important person in our family is now an 18-month-old baby girl. She came into our lives in May of 2016 and nothing has been the same.”

FROM OUR PARENTS

BCEC’s Eagles’ Wings is the Parent-Teacher Organization that is focused on supporting our students! While we’d love for you to come to our meetings and be involved in decision making, we would also be pleased to have your assistance to advance our goals, which include the following:

1) Provide needed financial assistance to BCEC students for college visits or for other items, such as caps and gowns for graduation
2) Support incoming BCEC students with orientation and team-building
3) Provide seminars for BCEC parents about financial opportunities for ongoing college education
4) Provide teacher appreciation for supporting our students
5) How can we help your student?

As fellow parents, we’re very focused on how we can help your student. Number 5 is MOST important to our organization, and we are always interested in new ideas to explore how we can help our student body! We welcome your involvement no matter how large or small. We can always be reached at eagleswings.pto@gmail.com or 828.708.2241.

Please consider becoming active in Eagles Wings to support your child and their fellow students on their travel to excellence through Buncombe County Early College. We meet every first Monday of the month at 6pm in the Birch Building Rm 209 (except for December).

Soon we will share a survey with parents and teachers to gauge how we can support BCEC efficiently. Please take the time to tell us what we can do to make BCEC better for you and your student. As a fellow parent, I feel very blessed to have a student in this great organization that cares about my child’s future and education. I feel confident you feel the same way about this opportunity, and we look forward to your input!

Sincerely,

Keith Miller, BCEC Eagles Wings

Interested in Volunteering at BCEC?

Sign Up Today!

1) Visit the BCS website at www.buncombeschools.org/volunteer
2) Read the general information on volunteering and click the link for the Volunteer Tracker Application
3) Click on the green, ”New to the App-Garden? Click here to Register” link. Enter your email address, create a password and Register. An activation email will be sent to your email address to validate your account.