Dear Bishop Community,

I hope you enjoyed the Christmas holiday with your families and pray that the New Year is prosperous for you all.

At Bishop Diego, we strive for excellence in all facets of school life. We are constantly looking at how we can improve and how we can provide students with a learning environment that will best prepare them for college and life. A component that is critical to continuous growth and school improvement is feedback from all BDHS constituencies and stakeholders. As parents, you have the ability to provide us with constructive feedback that can help us continue on our path to excellence.

I ask you to please take a few minutes to complete the attached Parent Satisfaction Survey. This survey will take about 15 minutes of your time. Please be thoughtful and specific in your answers as they provide invaluable feedback as we work on our strategic plan and the future of Bishop Diego High School. The survey will be available until Friday, January 11th; thank you in advance for your time.

Click here to complete the survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BDPar18

A separate student survey has been emailed to all BDHS students at their school gmail accounts. Please also encourage them to participate and provide constructive feedback about their experience. Thank you!

As a reminder, school will resume on Thursday, January 3rd, 2019. Happy New Year

In Christ,

Mrs. Karen Regan
Head of School
Tuition Assistance & Scholarship Applications – Due Date Change

Applications for Tuition Assistance and Scholarships are now open. EVERY Bishop family who would like to receive a Personalized Tuition Plan MUST reapply for Tuition Assistance through FACTS for the 2019/20 school year. Tuition Assistance Applications are due by January 17, 2019. In addition, many scholarships do not automatically renew and must be reapplied for each year. Scholarship applications are also due by January 17, 2019. Please visit Bishop’s website and the Admissions/Personalized Tuition pages for more information.

Re-enrollment

Parents of students in grades 9, 10 & 11 – be on the lookout for your online re-enrollment links coming before mid-February. We have moved to a completely online platform that will require a little extra input the first time, but will ultimately make everything much easier going forward! More information coming soon!

A 300% Increase!

To date, Bishop Diego has received 3 times as many applications as the same time last year. The Admissions Office encourages families of prospective students to submit their online applications EARLY! The deadline is January 31, 2019, but earlier is better!

Entrance Placement Testing – January 12 or 26, 2019

Entrance Placement Tests for all incoming freshman will be administered on Saturday, January 12 and Saturday, January 26, 2019. A completed online application and application fee must be submitted in order to sit for the exam. Parents can choose the preferred date within the parent portal of the new online application system:

https://bishopdiego.schooladminonline.com/users/sign_in

Bishop Diego is hosting its 2nd annual Poker Tournament on Sunday, January 20, 2019 in the Brick House. Check-in starts at 12:00 pm. Tournament play begins at 1:00 pm. Buy-in/reservation is $75/person. Participants must be 21+ with valid photo ID. Additional buy-ins available at the event. All AFC and NFC football games will be televised! Cardinal Chili, snacks, mixed drinks, draft beer and more will be served! Prizes include:
• 52 inch Samsung TV
• Fess Parker gift certificate
• Bose headphones
• Third Window gift certificate
• Apple TV
• Via Maestra 42 gift certificate

For information, visit www.bishopdiego.org/support/major-events/poker-tournament to secure a spot. Contact Ms. Erika Van Wingerden at 805.967.1266, ext. 114 or evanwingerden@bishopdiego.org.

Warmly,

Cristy McNay, Ed.D
Director of Admissions and Advancement
(805) 967-1266, ext. 118
cmcnay@bishopdiego.org

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**Curriculum & Instruction – Mr. Tim Flanagan**

Report cards should be uploaded to PCR and available for download on Monday afternoon, December 31st.

Happy New Year!

Tim Flanagan
Director of Curriculum & Instruction
(805) 967-1266, ext. 115
tflanagan@bishopdiego.org
With the start of second semester, we will be working on necessary schedule changes. Most courses are yearlong, so there will not be a lot of adjustments. The deadline to request a schedule change is January 16 at 3:00pm. See Ms. Anderson with any scheduling questions or to learn more about retaking a class where your student earned a D or F.

10th, 11th and 12th grade students are encouraged to apply for CSF and NHS. California Scholarship Federation (CSF) is available to students with a minimum 3.5 GPA from the fall semester. National Honor Society (NHS) is available to students with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.75. For continued participation, students must meet all requirements, dues and paperwork deadlines each semester. The deadline is January 18 at 3:30pm. More details are available at www.bdhsmultimedia.org/csf--nhs.html. The applications are available in the College and Career Center. They are also online: www.bdhsmultimedia.org/application-forms.html.

Parents of Sophomores and Juniors: On Monday, January 7, you are invited to join us for a Scores Analysis session. At this event, we’ll have an expert from Tutors Across America on hand to help families interpret scores from the PSAT and the Mock ACT. Event starts at 5:00pm in the Library.

Following this program, we will have a presentation for all 11th grade parents. Presenters include Admission Counselors from UCSB, CSU Channel Islands and Westmont College. Together, we will review the admissions process for public universities in California and private colleges/universities around the country. Event starts at 6:00pm in the Library.

The week of January 14, sophomores will be introduced to YouScience Career Aptitude tests. Concurrently, Ms. Anderson will invite sophomore families to join her for academic and college planning. These sophomore family meetings happen in small groups, with a review of graduation and 4-year college entrance requirements. Each student in attendance will develop personalized education plans. Please keep an eye out for your invitation from Ms. Anderson. If
you don’t hear from her by January 15, please contact her directly in request of an appointment: janderson@bishopdiego.org.

Excerpt continued…College Admission from Application to Acceptance, Step by Step by Robin Mamlet and Christine Vandevelde

“9 Things Admission Officers Look for in an Application

7. Contributions to your community. One of the things you hear admissions officers talking most about is ‘building’ or ‘sculpting’ a class, by which they mean that not only do they want to pick students who they think will succeed academically but also students who will bring a broad variety of skills, interests, and talents to their college community. The main way they have of gauging what you might bring to the community is by seeing what communal experiences you have had in your home community—both high school and the city or town beyond.

Be sure to highlight in your list of extracurricular activities any activities that point beyond yourself to your high school at-large: managing the talent show or coordinating the Bible study group, for example, both involve significant other-directed activity. And any outreach or service projects in your city, town, or place of worship can help establish that at college, too, you’ll play a role in their community (rather than being holed up in the library 24/7). If, for example, you’ve worked in a soup kitchen, or helped build houses for poor families, or worked to clean up a town after a tornado, be sure to showcase your contributions.

8. Recommendations that sing. Teacher recommendations address many desirable characteristics, including academic promise, willingness to accept challenge, intellectual vitality, writing skills, and many others. Accordingly, you should seek out recommenders who know you well and from classes where you were successful (also, if you showed marked growth or improvement in some course, this should be considered, too). Chances are those teachers will sing your praises and help to build the background characteristics we’ve listed that will add to the strength of your application.”

Thinking ahead, colleges will generally state they prefer one letter of recommendation from a school counselor and one recommendation from a teacher. Highly selective colleges tend
to ask for two teacher letters of recommendation. And, colleges typically express preference that you choose a teacher who has taught you in a core subject area (math, English, history, science or foreign language) from 11th or 12th grade.

Rya Carpenter
Director of Counseling and Student Services
College Counselor
(805) 967-1266, ext. 104
rcarpenter@bishopdiego.org

RESPECT: To be one, to be united, is a great thing. But to respect the right to be different is maybe even greater. ~Bono

Happy New Year! 2019 at Bishop Diego promises to be filled with many opportunities to receive and share God's amazing love.

Coming up:

- January 14-22 is Respect Life Week. We will be joining thousands of Catholics around the nation, participating in the "9 Days for Life" prayer and action campaign.
- January 28-February 1 is Catholic Schools Week. On Tuesday, Jan. 29 we will hold our annual CSW K-12 Mass here at Bishop, welcoming Bishop Robert Barron as our celebrant and Notre Dame, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Raphael school children and faculty. Mass will begin at 10AM.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Jennifer Winnewisser
Director of Campus Ministry & Spiritual Life
(805) 967-1266, ext. 123
jwinnewisser@bishopdiego.org
Winter Schedules available online -- come out and support our student athletes!

Go Cards

Dan Peeters
Director of Athletics
(805) 967-1266, ext. 113
dpeeters@bishopdiego.org

SEAN KELLY’S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

On Monday, January 21, 2019, Sean Kelly will build a Ga-Ga Ball Pit at Bishop Diego High School for his Eagle Scout project. It will be located next to the Sand Volleyball Court. Ga-Ga Ball is similar to dodge ball, but it is played in an octagonal pit with a soft foam ball. It is a fast paced high-energy game that all students can play, regardless of athletic ability. The entire game takes five minutes or less to play, and there are only a few simple rules to follow. It is great fun!

To raise funds for the Ga-Ga Ball Pit, Sean will hold a Bake Sale on Monday, January 7, 2019. Please come and support Sean’s Eagle Scout project! If you have any questions, or you want to donate baked items, please contact Sean at 805-869-3110.

Upcoming Athletic Events

**Thursday January 3**
Girls Basketball @ Avalon Tournament  **RELEASE ALL DAY**
Boys Basketball Home vs Orcutt Academy JV 5:30p Varsity 7:00p  **NO EARLY RELEASE**

**Friday January 4**
Girls Basketball @ Avalon Tournament  **RELEASE ALL DAY**

**Saturday January 5**
Girls Basketball @ Avalon Tournament
Boys Soccer Home vs Foothill Tech 1:00pm
Boys Basketball Home vs Santa Ynez Frosh/Soph 4:00p, JV 5:30p, Varsity 7:00p
Upcoming Bishop Events Calendar

12/30
Sunday Obligation

1/3
School Resumes
NO BISHOP PLUS

Bishop Events Looking Ahead ...

1/7
7:45 am STEAM Society Group Meeting
5:00 pm PSAT and Mock ACT Scores
6:00 pm Junior Parent College Information Night
7:15 pm Admissions Presentation in library

1/12
Entrance Placement Exam

1/15
5:00 pm Admissions Information Night

1/16
3:00 pm Last day to make schedule changes

1/17
Tuition Assistance and Scholarship Applications due

1/18
CSF/NHS Application Deadline By 3:30 pm

1/21
No School

1/26
Entrance Placement Exam

1/28
Catholic Schools Week

1/29
K-12 Mass

1/30
All School Day of Service (Office Closed)