

## Berkeley High School Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Grade F.A.Q.

### 1. Registration Dates for the 2015-16 School Year

Monday, Aug 24: Seniors

Tuesday, Aug 25: Juniors

Wednesday, Aug 26: Sophomores

Thursday, Aug 27: Freshmen Orientation and Registration, LAST NAME A-K, students only

Friday, Aug 28: Freshmen Orientation and Registration, LAST NAME L-Z, students only

Saturday, Aug 29: Freshman Picnic for students and families

Wednesday, September 2: First Day of School

### 2. When will the lottery take place?

The first round lottery takes place in May. Families will be notified of the learning community assignments in mid to late May by a letter sent directly from the high school, which will include information about the specifics of their student's assigned community.

*All current BUSD middle school students and newly admitted students enrolled by the end of February enter the BHS lottery at the same time and will be given the same priority in the BHS lottery.*

New to BUSD students who did not complete the admission process by the end of February will not be included in the first round of the lottery. There will be several more lottery rounds following the initial lottery. There is no final cut off date for enrollment at BHS.

### 3. How many learning communities are there? How do students choose the learning communities? How many students get their first choice?

BHS has five learning communities:

Academic Choice (AC)

Arts & Humanities Academy (AHA)

Academy of Medicine and Public Service (AMPS)

Berkeley International High School (BIHS)

Communication Arts & Sciences (CAS).

AC and BIHS each have approximately 300 students per grade. The other three communities are smaller with approximately 60 students per grade.

During the spring, when incoming students sign up for courses online, they are asked to list their choices of learning community in order of preference. *All students must include AC and BIHS in their list of preferences.* If your student wants one of the smaller learning communities (AMPS, AHA, or CAS) he or she lists one, two or all three of the smaller communities in addition to listing AC and BIHS.

Approximately 91% of students receive their first or second choice.

### 4. If I already have a student at Berkeley High School can my students be placed together?

Incoming students who have a current sibling at BHS will be placed in the same learning community if the incoming student lists the sibling's community as their number one choice. In order to qualify for sibling preference, siblings must live in the same household and have the same parent(s).

### 5. What if my student does not get the learning community that he/she requested?

All learning community placements are final for the coming academic school year. Students are allowed to enter the student lottery again for the following school year when they register in the spring. There is no guarantee that students will be able to switch.

## **6. What electives can my student take as a freshman?**

All freshmen take **English, history, math, and science** within their learning community.

If your child qualifies for **special education** they will be assigned to the appropriate courses within their learning community.

**AC** students, in addition to the four standard classes listed above, choose two other courses from the world language department, physical education, or art.

**AHA** students, in addition to the four standard classes, take an arts wheel and choose one other course from world language or PE.

**AMPS** students, in addition to the four standard classes, take physical education and choose one other course from world language.

**BIHS** students, in addition to the four standard classes, take an arts course of their choice and choose world language or PE.

**CAS** students, in addition to the four standard classes, choose two other courses, from the world language department, physical education, or art.

When signing up for classes, all students will select two elective choices. If they are assigned either AMPS or AHA, which have required courses, the school will automatically put those courses into their schedule.

## **7. How is math placement determined?**

Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will be placed in Math 1, the first course of our common core course progression. This applies to students from both BUSD and non-BUSD middle schools. Students who wish to be placed in Advanced Math 1 (or Honors Algebra 2, if students have already taken an Algebra *and* Geometry course) must take a placement test.

Placement in advanced or honors math is determined by:

- Student's current course progression
- Placement test for advanced or honors math
- Current teacher recommendation

Math placement testing has already taken place for the 2015-16 school year. If you are enrolling after May 2015, and are interested in advanced or honors math placement, contact VP Erin Schweng at [erinschweng@berkeley.net](mailto:erinschweng@berkeley.net) for info on testing.

Students who place into advanced or honors math will be required to do a certain number of hours per semester of tutoring. The tutoring requirement may be fulfilled in a number of ways; the math department will provide exact details at the beginning of the school year to advanced math students.

## **8. What is the Physical Education Requirement?**

Students are required to take two years (four semesters) of Physical Education (PE). Students may fulfill this requirement by 1) taking PE classes for 2 years, 2) playing on a BHS sports team, and/or 3) outside sports or YMCA participation under a PE Waiver. Each season equals one semester. Playing on a BHS sports team does not require a PE waiver.

## **9. What is a PE Waiver?**

Each BHS students can request the opportunity to fulfill their physical education credits off campus with a PE waiver. To do so, students must submit an application and prove that the alternative program provides a minimum of 60 hours/semester that meet state physical standards in a structured athletic program or is a state-sponsored team sport. PE waiver applications are available from the attendance office in the fall and again at the start of second semester. In addition, BHS has a partnership with the Berkeley YMCA where students are able to obtain PE waivers. Minx Manuel [mmanuel@ymca-cba.org](mailto:mmanuel@ymca-cba.org) is the YMCA's PE Waiver coordinator.

### **10. What world languages are offered at Berkeley High School? How are students assigned to a non-beginner level?**

There are four world languages offered at BHS: Spanish, French, Mandarin, and Latin. There is no language placement test for students who enroll in the beginning level of any of the four languages. Students who wish to enroll at a level other than beginning must take the BHS placement exam on April 18 at 10:00 a.m. at BHS in the M Building (the new building on Milvia).

If you are **NEW** to Berkeley Unified School District and want to be in a language class above level 1, you will need to take the language placement exam.

If you are currently enrolled in BUSD and want to **SKIP level 2 (3/4)**, you should also come to take the placement test.

This year the exam will be offered on Friday, August 21, 2015 from 10AM-noon. The exam will be given on the second floor of the M building - located off Milvia above Channing. You do not need to sign up, just show up. Some students finish the exam in 45 minutes and others need 90 minutes, so it is difficult to say how long the exam will last.

If you are unable to make this August date, the exam will be offered once school has started on September 9 at 3:35pm in Room M209. This will be your final chance to take the placement exam for the 2015-16 school year. Please email [coryhenrickson@berkeley.net](mailto:coryhenrickson@berkeley.net) with further questions.

### **11. How can my student receive help with schoolwork or receive tutoring or academic support?**

BHS teachers are the first resource for academic assistance. Many offer tutoring for their students before school, at lunch, or after school. Students should check with individual teachers for their tutoring hours. In addition to informal tutoring, BHS offers the following programs:

**BHS Teacher Tutorials** are available in every academic subject. Over 40 teachers conduct scheduled tutoring sessions on a weekly basis Monday - Thursday 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. The tutorial schedule is updated each semester and is available on the BHS website. [bhs.berkeleyschools.net](http://bhs.berkeleyschools.net). The BHS Development Group pays for teacher tutorials.

**The Learning Center (TLC)** is open Monday - Thursday from 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. for drop-in tutorial assistance. Tutors are available in every academic subject. Students can also access technology, textbooks, and other materials. The Learning Center is located in the College and Career Center (Room D221).

**Daily Progress Reports.** If your student is struggling, you may request Daily Progress Reports from his or her teacher using a form that is available in the Counseling Department office. You may also contact your child's teacher directly.

**Contacting teachers.** Teacher email addresses are listed on the BHS website [bhs.berkeleyschools.net](http://bhs.berkeleyschools.net) If you do not have Internet access you may leave a note for the teacher at the Front Desk.

Additional questions may be sent to our Academic Support Coordinator Wyn Skeels at [wynskeels@berkeley.net](mailto:wynskeels@berkeley.net)

### **12. What additional academic support does BHS offer?**

In addition to the programs listed above there are four programs for underserved students. If you think your student could benefit from any of the following programs--Bridge, AVID, Y-Scholars, and RISE—please contact his or her middle school counselor for more information and guidance. We have also provided contact information for each program.

### **Berkeley High Bridge Program**

Our mission is to have more African American and Latino students make an academically successful transition from middle school to college. Bridge is designed to help underserved students successfully transition to BHS, support them during their four years in high school, and maintain eligibility to attend a four-year college or university. Focus is placed on developing leadership capabilities so they can be facilitators of positive change. Bridge is voluntary and intended for students who desire to succeed academically and can benefit from extra support and guidance. Each year, students attend summer sessions and after school classes. Families participate in workshops to enhance their abilities to support their children at school.

The classes take place *every day* after school at BHS and serve as a consistent, reliable home base that keeps students accountable for their academic progress. We provide academic tutoring, counseling, coaching and a space for kids to work. The BHS Bridge Program currently has limited availability and prioritizes students who qualify for free and reduced lunch, students who will be the first in their families to attend college, and students who generally maintained a 2.0-2.9 GPA in middle school.

If you would like additional information please contact the Bridge Program Coordinator, Kimberly D'Adamo [kimberlydadamo@berkeley.net](mailto:kimberlydadamo@berkeley.net) or Jessie Luxford: [jessieluxford@berkeley.net](mailto:jessieluxford@berkeley.net)

### **AVID Advancement Via Individual Determination**

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a four-year academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success. The 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade AVID course emphasizes rhetorical reading, analytical writing, collaborative discussion strategies, preparation for college entrance and placement exams, college study skills, test-taking strategies, note taking and research. The 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade AVID curriculum also focuses on college and career awareness through work in class, guest speakers and field trips to colleges. The 11<sup>th</sup> grade AVID Elective course is the first part in a junior/senior seminar course that focuses on writing and critical thinking expected of first- and second-year college students. In addition to the academic focus of the AVID seminar, there are college-bound activities, methodologies and tasks that should be undertaken during the junior year to support students as they apply to four-year universities and confirm their postsecondary plans.

To apply for the AVID program please contact Morgan Tigerman [morgantigerman@berkeley.net](mailto:morgantigerman@berkeley.net) or Mendel Chernack [mendelchernack@berkeley.net](mailto:mendelchernack@berkeley.net)

### **RISE**

Berkeley High School's RISE (Responsibility, Integrity, Strength, Empowerment) program is an initiative that encourages BHS youth to make positive changes in their communities. Targeting at-risk youth, RISE is an after-school program designed to help high school youth succeed in school and get into college. RISE's primary goal of motivating students to do well in school is partially accomplished by providing academic tutoring and extracurricular activities, and largely accomplished via mentoring and an academically nurturing environment. For questions or to receive applications, please contact Adriana Betti at [adrianabetti@berkeley.net](mailto:adrianabetti@berkeley.net)

### **Y-SCHOLARS**

The Y-Scholars Program is a free college preparatory afterschool program that works with first-generation college-bound students in grades 9-12, preparing them to pursue higher education through career exploration and academic achievement. Services include: weekly workshops covering topics ranging from study skills to college exploration, mentoring, after-school tutoring, SAT preparatory classes, college tours, social events, and more. In addition, all 12th grade participants receive weekly individual advising on

exploring college majors and potential careers, and completing college and financial assistance applications. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. This program is based in the Y-Teen Center on the corner of Martin Luther King and Addison. For more information, contact the Y Scholars program at (510) 542-2130

### **13. Who should I call if I am worried about my student's attendance in high school?**

If your son/daughter had problems with unexcused absences in middle school, don't hesitate to reach out to us early—we can connect you with resources and support. The Dean of Attendance, Janelle Bugarini, [janellebugarini@berkeley.net](mailto:janellebugarini@berkeley.net) will be happy to schedule a meeting with you to discuss strategies for improved attendance.

**VISIT** us in person in the Attendance Office in D134.

**EMAIL** us at [attendanceoffice@berkeley.net](mailto:attendanceoffice@berkeley.net) or

**CALL** us...

if last name begins with A – G1                      644-6341

if last name begins with Go – N                      644-6194

if last name begins with O - Z                      644-6209

**To speak Spanish**                                      644-6194

### **14. How do I excuse or clear a student's absence?**

Absences are excused for illness, medical appointments, religious holidays, jury duty, or a death in the immediate family. Family travel is not an excused absence. If a student is out for illness three consecutive days or 30 periods in one quarter, BHS requires a medical note to clear those absences.

A separate FAQ from the attendance office, which includes how to excuse absences, attendance office hours, and ways to monitor student attendance, will be included in a summer mailing to all BHS families.

### **15. How do I know what is happening at the school?**

#### **BHS ETREE**

Regular communication is sent home by email via the BHS etree, a list serve providing information about BHS to the greater BHS community.

To **subscribe**, send an e-mail message to [bhs-request@lmi.net](mailto:bhs-request@lmi.net) with “subscribe” as the only word in the subject line. To **unsubscribe**, send an e-mail message to [bhs-request@lmi.net](mailto:bhs-request@lmi.net) with “unsubscribe” as only word in the subject line.

**If you have trouble subscribing**, please contact the e-tree moderators, at [bhs-owner@lmi.net](mailto:bhs-owner@lmi.net)

If you missed an important posting you may search the etree archives at <http://lists.lmi.net/pipermail/bhs/>

#### **WEBSITE**

Families should bookmark the BHS website which posts resources, news, teacher contacts and more.

<http://bhs.berkeleyschools.net/>

#### **PHONE BLAST**

Very important news is sent home by a Phone Blast. Please make sure your telephone number is up to date in our database by contacting the attendance office (numbers above.)

### **16. How can I get involved if I want to volunteer at BHS?**

There are any number of opportunities to volunteer: at registration, the front desk, test monitoring, chaperoning dances, on field trips, or helping in the library. We also have an Athletic Fund, the BHS Development Group,

the PTSA, and school-governing committees. Each learning community may have specific parent leadership opportunities as well. Volunteer opportunities are posted regularly on the etree. For more info contact volunteer coordinator Lisa Sibony: [lisasibony@berkeley.net](mailto:lisasibony@berkeley.net)

### **17. How can I take a tour of Berkeley High School?**

The touring season for prospective students runs from October to March. The small group tours leave the Front Desk at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday - Friday and 10:45 on Mondays. Students are welcome as long as their own parent or guardian accompanies them. Tours are by reservation only; to sign up, please email [bhsoutreach@berkeley.net](mailto:bhsoutreach@berkeley.net).

### **18. How can students audition for the music program?**

BHS is very proud of our music programs and encourages all interested students to participate. Tryouts take place on the following dates:

**Orchestra Program** Advanced 1<sup>st</sup> Chamber Orchestra Auditions (winds and strings) take place in April.

For more information contact Karen Wells at [karenwells@berkeley.net](mailto:karenwells@berkeley.net)

**Jazz Program Auditions take place in** May 20 (piano, drums, vibes, bass and guitar, brass and woodwinds). For more information contact Sarah Cline at [sarahcline@berkeley.net](mailto:sarahcline@berkeley.net)

**19. How can students get involved with athletics? What sports are offered? How and when do I try out for a fall sport/team?** BHS offers 29 Varsity sports in total. **Fall sports** (August – November) are: Cheerleading, Girls Golf, Girls, Boys and Girls Cross Country, Girls Tennis, Boys and Girls Water Polo, Girls Field Hockey, Boys Football, and Girls Volleyball. All Fall tryouts happen in August before school starts. Please check the website for **Winter** (Nov-Feb) and **Spring** (Feb-May) Sports. In addition, there are a number of Club Sports including Ultimate Frisbee, Rugby, Mountain Biking and more.

Information on fall sports tryouts will be posted on the etree and posted on the websites listed below. For coach contact info and the required athletics packet, interested students should come by the Athletic Office located behind the bleachers or check the Berkeley Athletic Fund website (<http://www.berkeleyhighathletics.org/>) or the BHS athletics website (<http://bhs.berkeleyschools.net/athletics/>)

Incoming freshmen are allowed to participate in a fall sport regardless of performance in their 8th grade year. Moving forward in school, first quarter grades are used to determine midseason eligibility for fall sports with these requirements: a 2.0 minimum GPA of 2.0 and no more than one F.

### **20. What are the course options for students within the African-American Studies department?**

There are currently four courses within African-American Studies: Afro-Haitian Dance, African American literature, African American History, and African American Psychology and Sociology. These classes fulfill a number of graduation and elective requirements. For example, African-American History 1/2 fulfills the US History requirement, and African-American Literature, earns one year of English credit. Afro-Haitian dance fulfills PE requirement. In addition, any one African-American Studies course fulfills the BUSD requirement for one semester of ethnic studies.

For information about the African-American Studies department and its courses offerings, please read the BHS course catalog pages 55-57. The catalog may be found on the BHS website at [bhs.berkeleyschools.net/](http://bhs.berkeleyschools.net/) If you have questions, contact Dean of Students, Ardarius McDonald at [ardariusmcdonald@berkeley.net](mailto:ardariusmcdonald@berkeley.net)

### **21. How does the African-American Studies Department support students outside of the classroom?**

The AAS Department sponsors the BHS Black Student Union (BSU) which offers students the opportunity and space for students to discuss their experiences; participate in developing, planning, and implementing significant events and activities in which they are interested; and coordinate annual celebrations such as the



annual Celebration of Excellence (African-American Graduation Ceremony). The BSU gives students the opportunity to groom leadership skills, become active in campus living, and work with career professionals who are future role models for their career paths. For more information, contact teacher Mama Naomi Washington at [naomiwashington@berkeley.net](mailto:naomiwashington@berkeley.net)

## **22. When do students meet with their academic counselor? How do I communicate with my student's counselor?**

Ninth grade students will meet their assigned academic counselors after school begins. Counselor assignments will be posted on the etree and in the counseling center during the first week of school.

The best way to communicate with counselors during the school year is via email. Parents who do not have email may leave a note for the counselor at the Front Desk.

We realize that families have many questions for counselors but we ask you to understand that our large registration process and other duties associated with the opening of school keeps counselors occupied during the first few weeks of school. The counselors' first priority is making sure all students have a schedule after which they can shift their focus to scheduling changes and adjustments. Counselors will NOT be available for drop in meetings with parents or students during the first two weeks of school. During registration, counselors will be making course changes and schedule adjustments with seniors receiving priority.

## **23. What do we do if there is a mistake in my child's schedule?**

If your student's schedule contains a mistake (an incorrect level or a class that was not requested), we ask that they submit a *schedule request form*. There is space on the form for an explanation. If a counselor needs to talk to a student about their request, they will send for the student.

Students, *even those who have requested changes*, should always follow their printed course schedules until a counselor or an administrator confirms an official change.

## **24. What resources are available for students with IEPs?**

BHS offers a continuum of services for its approximately 300 students with disabilities. The Special Education program is designed to meet the diverse needs of students with a wide range of learning needs from mild to moderate learning disabilities to severe cognitive and physical differences. Special education teachers are each affiliated with a learning community or a specialized program. Teachers both case manage students and teach skill based classes. In addition students receive specialized individual support around their academic classes as well as their transition needs during teacher-led Consultative Learning Centers (CLCs). Please contact Program Manager Diane Colborn at [dianecolborn@berkeley.net](mailto:dianecolborn@berkeley.net) for additional questions.

## **25. What resources are available for English Language Learners?**

We take our commitment to English Language (EL) learners seriously. In addition to the EL Newcomer program explained below, there is a Home School Liaison, a lead teacher, a parent/staff English Language Advisory Committee, Bilingual tutors and mentors, and several student-run clubs such as Earphone English which support English language learners.

BHS administers the California English Language Development (ELD) test the first week of school every September. The test is scored at BHS and used to place EL students. New students are tested through the year as they enroll in order to determine placement.

### **EL Newcomer Program**

This program focuses on recently arrived students who speak little or no English. The program is a Structured English Immersion Program (SEI) with many academic classes offered in the student's native language. This year there are 88 EL students in the Newcomer Program. A Newcomer EL student is learning a new language:

reading, writing, speaking, and listening academic English, as well as acculturating to American school culture and expectations. Newcomer EL students are in ELD classes for two hours daily and in Specially-Designed Academic Classes SDIAE for their core subjects of math, history, science, and English. In addition, many of EL Newcomers take a 7<sup>th</sup> period tutorial for academic support. Our goal in the Newcomer Program is to mainstream students as soon as possible. For more information see the BHS Course Catalog.

### **Bilingual Tutors/Mentors**

Tutors work one-on-one with all English Learners in EL Newcomer classes, especially with EL Beginners, in math classes, and in EL Tutorial. The goal is to support students academically and to help ELs improve attendance and plan for college.

English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) is a parent advisory and advocacy committee that advises and gives input to the principal and staff on:

- The development of the school plan for programs serving ELs.
- The school's needs assessment.
- The administration of the school's language census.
- Efforts to make parents aware of the importance of regular school attendance.

In addition, ELAC members are consulted by the School Site Council (SCC) on the EL component of the school plan and budget.

### **Contacts for English Language Learners**

Long Term English Learner (LTEL) Coordinator

The LTEL coordinator coaches LTEL teachers and monitors the Long Term English Language services and students including the Academic Language Development (ALD) course all 9th grade Long Term English Learners take in addition to their mainstream English class. For more information, contact coordinator Tamara Friedman at [tamarafriedman@berkeley.net](mailto:tamarafriedman@berkeley.net).

### **Bilingual EL Home School Liaison**

The Liaison is an advocate for students and families and a link between home and school. For more information, call the EL Office at 644-6949 or email Patricia Stewart at [patriciastewart@berkeley.net](mailto:patriciastewart@berkeley.net)

### **26. How can families stay in communication with teachers?**

Families and students are able to track the most up to date grades and attendance using an online system called **PowerSchool**. The Parent Portal can be found at: [bhs.berkeleyschools.net/parents/powerschool-access/](http://bhs.berkeleyschools.net/parents/powerschool-access/)

To access the information parents and students need a password. Students' accounts are created for them. Accounts for 9th grade students will typically be opened during the first week of school. New students and their parents will receive their password and instructions in the mail in September. If your student attended a BUSD middle school, your Parent Access Code is the same as it was last year. If you lost your code or need help, please contact the Parent Resource Center at 644-8524.

We encourage students to talk directly to their teachers and academic counselors. Parents are welcome to contact teachers via email, parents who don't have access to email can leave a written message for a teacher at the front desk and we'll put it in the teacher's box and/or notify the teacher.

### **27. When is Freshman Orientation and what happens on that day?**

**Freshman orientation is on Thursday, August 27** this year. Students will receive their actual class schedule with room numbers and teacher's names. They will check out textbooks, be assigned a locker, turn in required forms, get a photo identification card, learn about clubs and athletic information, as well as take a campus tour and attend a club fair.



We strongly encourage families to schedule late summer plans with this date in mind. The day is a very good way for new students to familiarize themselves with BHS prior to the first day of school and lower some of the anxiety in terms of knowing where classes and offices are located and get some preliminary sense of how the campus is laid out.

In addition, there will be a **Freshman Picnic on Saturday, August 29**. This is an event for families where students will have a chance to gather with their Learning Communities and meet leaders from their communities. More information about this event will be sent to families this summer.

### **28. What is the Berkeley High School Development Group?**

The BHS Development Group (BHSDG) is an independent nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation founded in 1991 to ensure the quality and excellence of BHS by raising and distributing funds to enhance academic and other projects. To learn more, volunteer, and/or make a donation, go to [www.bhsdg.org](http://www.bhsdg.org), or send an email to [info@bhsdg.org](mailto:info@bhsdg.org).

### **29. How can students get involved in clubs, leadership, or volunteer work?**

The Associated Student Body (ASB) consists of student leadership officers and student leadership teams at all grade levels. It is the hub for nearly 90 different clubs organized around a range of interests from community service and hobbies to arts, political activism, and outdoor activities.

Incoming freshmen will be able to explore club opportunities during freshman orientation, as well as through a club fair, which is usually held within the first three weeks of school. Elections for freshman class officers begin with nomination forms being available at freshman orientation.

Students can also get involved in a number of volunteer and community outreach events such as the annual holiday meal, blood drive, or multicultural celebration. These events are announced throughout the year on the Student Daily Bulletin, which is both read aloud during 2<sup>nd</sup> period and posted on the etree.

If you have additional questions about any student leadership, volunteer, or club activities, please contact John Villavicencio, our Director of Student Activities: [johnvillavicencio@berkeley.net](mailto:johnvillavicencio@berkeley.net)

### **30. How does BHS maintain and monitor student and campus safety?**

BHS takes the safety of its students very seriously and consistently reviews campus safety concerns weekly at both administrative team and safety officer meetings. We have a team of twelve (12) safety officers who supervise the campus before, after, and during the school day. During lunchtime an administrator supervises the city park. Our safety officers are not simply “security guards.” They build positive relationships with the students they share the hallways with each school day. Safety officers also play a daily role in mediating and preventing conflicts between students.

In addition to our safety officers, BHS employs four (4) campus monitors who supervise each of the campus entrances. Finally, BHS works closely with the Youth Services Division of the Berkeley Police Department. A sworn police officer, serving as a School Resource Officer (SRO), is assigned to our campus full time during school hours.

Should a student ever feel threatened, harassed, or bullied at any time, they should seek out their counselor, a school safety officer, or any other adult on campus. Students should carry student ID with them at all times in the event of an emergency.

If you have questions about campus safety, or are interested in participating in the School Safety Committee, please contact our Dean of Students, Ardarius McDonald: [ardariusmcdonald@berkeley.net](mailto:ardariusmcdonald@berkeley.net)

### **31. How can students get involved in journalism or work on the school newspaper?**

The Berkeley High Jacket is the student newspaper of BHS. The 16-page paper is published every other Friday throughout the school year and serves more than 3,200 BHS students, as well as the broader Berkeley community. The Jacket is largely student-operated and is put together by a dedicated staff of student editors, writers, photographers, illustrators and videographers. In 2000, the Jacket staff became the first-ever non-professional winner of the Northern California Society of Professional Journalists' Journalist of the Year award.

To apply for a position as a Jacket staff writer, photographer or illustrator, please go to [http://www.bhsjacket.com/join\\_staff\\_0](http://www.bhsjacket.com/join_staff_0) to download an application. Applications will be available in May 2015. If you have questions please email faculty advisor Peter Rodrigues at [peterrodrigues@berkeley.net](mailto:peterrodrigues@berkeley.net)

### **32. What is the Parent Resource Center?**

The Parent Resource Center (PRC), located on the second floor of the Admin Building at BHS, aims to help families feel connected to the high school. Irma Parker and Leticia Amezcua, who is bilingual, work hard at answering questions and explaining services. In addition, they provide training to parents and guardians on how to use PowerSchool, the parent portal that allows families to track student progress in classes online.

The PRC schedules family workshops throughout the year, and facilitates the purchase of student BART tickets including discount BART tickets to families who qualify. The PRC is also the location of the school's Lost and Found.

Contact our parent liaisons for additional information:

Irma Parker at 644-8524 or [irmaparker@berkeley.net](mailto:irmaparker@berkeley.net)

Leticia Amezcua at 644-4814 [leticiaamezcua@berkeley.net](mailto:leticiaamezcua@berkeley.net) Leticia speaks Spanish.

### **33. What is the Berkeley High School Health Center?**

The city of Berkeley Health Department operates the BHS Health Center, which is located on campus. The Health Center empowers teens to take responsibility for their physical, emotional, and social health by engaging their strengths, experiences, and knowledge. The Health Center provides access to culturally appropriate care through a combination of direct services, partnerships, and referrals to community resources.

The Health center provides the following services:

#### **Athletic Physicals**

**Health Education** - Drug and Alcohol Prevention Education; Nutrition Information; Pregnancy Prevention and Testing; STI/HIV Education and Prevention

**Mental Health** - Crisis Intervention; Individual Counseling; Stress Management; Support Groups; Referrals to outside therapists

**Youth Development** -SHIFT (Sexual Health Information From Teens) a peer education program, in which students develop and present health education curriculum in classrooms at BHS addressing topics such as pregnancy/STI prevention, healthy decision making, positive communication skills

**First Aid Services** -Evaluation and treatment of minor illnesses and injuries; immunizations; and identification of students with chronic illnesses to refer for case management