

Buchholz High School

Tips for 9th Grade Families



www.sbac.edu/buchholz



What tools are available to assist students with the transition into 9th grade? The Student Council hosts a New Student Orientation that helps students become more familiar with the school. Guidance counselors are also available to assist with individual needs.



What are the primary differences between middle and high school when it comes to parent/guardian involvement? Ideally, parent involvement is reduced as students develop more independence with things such as schoolwork, grades, and activities. Parents play a crucial role in helping students feel more comfortable advocating for themselves and learning how to reach out to teachers, counselors, and other necessary school staff. There are a lot of big decisions to navigate throughout high school. Offering your high schooler a supportive ear and guidance goes a long way in helping them succeed.



Do parents still have to sign their child out if they want to check them out? Yes, parent checkout is still required. You will check out through our attendance office, located at the front of the school. Parents must be listed as contacts in Skyward and bring a photo ID.



How are 504 plans and IEPs implemented in high school? These are legal documents and are implemented with fidelity, although some accommodations may not be needed in high school. Meetings are conducted when necessary to refine accommodations and ensure the plan remains appropriate for student needs. Make sure your student is well aware of their accommodations and comfortable speaking to teachers or a counselor about them. High school teachers typically have well over a hundred students with many individual needs to keep in mind. If you have questions about your student's IEP or 504 and/or want to request a review or update, reach out to your student's counselor.



What communications tools are available for students and families?

- General announcements are communicated to parents and students through regular emails.
- We encourage families to visit the school website to see the school calendar: www.sbac.edu/buchholz
- The school publishes a weekly informative Paw Press newsletter: <https://www.sbac.edu/domain/1673>
- Refer to your student's online portal for links to learning resources and check out their individual Canvas page for class updates and Guidance resources: <https://www.sbac.edu> (select "My Portal")
- Refer to Skyward for official grades. If you aren't registered with Skyward, we encourage you to do so right away: <https://www.sbac.edu/Page/30641>
- Subscribe to the Buchholz High School WCAT Morning News for the latest school happenings: <https://www.youtube.com/@BuchholzHighSchoolWCAT>.



Does the school host annual meetings with parents? We will hold our annual Open House on September 17th at 7 pm. This is an opportunity for parents to follow their student's schedule, meet their teachers, and learn how they can support their student.



Are students expected to advocate for themselves? Yes. In high school, students are generally encouraged to advocate for themselves. This means taking responsibility for deadlines and assignments, communicating with teachers about their needs, seeking help when necessary, and expressing their interests and goals in an appropriate way.



Do students use physical books or is everything digital? This year, all Buchholz students will be assigned a laptop and expected to bring it to class each day. Most classes will be using digital textbooks that can be accessed on the laptops. Classes that are using physical books will distribute them during the first few weeks of class.



What is the process for a student to meet with a school counselor? Students email their school counselor to make an appointment (see the school website for email addresses). We encourage students to schedule appointments and/or see a counselor during lunch, so as not to miss instructional time.



What is the process to request a schedule change? There is an established process for students to request changes to schedules in the first two weeks of school. This is advertised to students once school begins. After that, students will need to make an appointment with their counselor to discuss any potential schedule changes.



How do school supplies work? Teachers will let students know during the first week of school if there are any supplies needed for class. Students are also encouraged to purchase their own supplies as needed to help them stay organized in the way that works best for them.



What are some more tips that will impact success during freshman year? Time management, organization, communication, and goal setting. This is a time for growth and learning, so embrace the opportunities and challenges that come your way. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Everyone wants you to succeed!



Are classroom schedules organized in a way that ensures students do not have multiple tests on the same day/week? We do not establish a testing calendar. We encourage students to keep a calendar, whether digital or print, to keep track of major assignments and tests to plan study time, etc.



Are lockers used? We do not assign lockers to students unless there is a special need.



Are 9th-grade classes in relatively the same location? Class locations are generally organized by subject, not by grade.



If a parent has a concern regarding a school matter (teacher, other school staff, etc.), what is the process to get it resolved? If a parent has a concern with classroom concerns (grades, homework, etc.), we encourage them to speak to the teacher first. If the situation does not resolve itself, a parent can contact an administrator.



What student clubs are available, and how do students sign up? We hold a Club Fair to display all our available clubs, and students can sign up during the event. Our 50+ clubs are listed on the school website under "Clubs and Organizations."



How can parents get involved? There are lots of opportunities to get involved with Buchholz! If students are involved with extra-curriculars such as sports or the arts, there are often booster clubs that provide volunteer opportunities. PTSA also hosts events where volunteers are needed, such as Teacher/Staff Appreciation events, Honor Roll Ice Cream Socials, Awards nights, and more. You can also donate items to support teachers and students through PTSA supplies drives, Amazon wish lists, and service projects.



Buchholz PTSA

Your PTSA membership supports staff appreciation, student scholarships, student achievement awards, Bobcat families in need, PTSA-funded projects like school benches, and more! While we welcome your time, it's not required! It takes a village, so more members (and tax-deductible donations!) means more advocacy for students, families and our school community.

Buchholz web site
www.sbac.edu/buchholz



Buchholz PTSA
bobcatptsa.com



PTSA Facebook
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