

Sophomore Job Shadow Day on November 14

The 4th annual Job Shadow Day (JSD) will be held on Wednesday, November 14, for all members of the sophomore class. According to English teacher and JSD coordinator, Mrs. Frances Brandin, the purpose of this event is to give students the opportunity to spend a day with an employee or manager at a work site in order to learn the various aspects of the job first hand, the skills required, the responsibilities involved, and the future job prospects. The program is an excellent way for students to test their career interests and goals, communication skills, and see how academics are applied in the working world.

JSD and its components have been incorporated into the tenth grade English curriculum. In a recent mailing to parents/guardians of all 10th graders, the program was explained in more detail.

Some occupations shadowed by last year's participants included a surgeon, blood research lab technician, lawyer, nurse, sales person, teacher and executive assistant. A survey administered after JSD yielded the following student comments: "...now I know what the job entails and if I want to follow that career path, I


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Chargers' Choices and FBLA Flourishing

The Business Department is happy to report BMR's chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is now well established and beginning its second year of operation. The current membership of 25 students and their advisors, business teachers Janis Laporte and Ann Phipps, are committed to the successful continuation and expansion of this organization.

FBLA is a non-profit educational association made up of students who are considering careers in business or business education or for those students who simply want to learn about business operations and free enterprise. Its purpose is to provide students with a competitive edge in the business world through career exploration, self-improvement and community service. Participation in a variety of activities and conferences also gives them an opportunity to develop their leadership skills. FBLA members also perform community-related service hours on a regular basis.

During their first year, FBLA received support from a number of local businesses to help them achieve their first major goal – that of opening a school store. *Chargers' Choices* opened last January and is located adjacent to the cafeteria. It stocks a variety of school supplies such as pens/pencils, folders, notebooks, poster board and more. It also carries snack foods, drinks, inexpensive gift items, BMR clothing and hats. The store is open Monday through Friday from 7:15 to 7:30 AM, during all lunches, and Monday through Thursday from 2:00 to 2:30 PM.

To date the store has proved to be a financially profitable venture with the net proceeds being earmarked for competitions, trips, and scholarships. In the spring, the group will be competing against other schools to test their knowledge and skills in various business-related areas, such as accounting, marketing, keyboarding, and web design. 

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know what to expect;" "I loved where I went...but it doesn't seem like I'd make a lot of money, and I'd probably be bored doing it day after day;" "I loved my job shadowing experience....It increased my desire to continue my dream of becoming an engineer."

Based on this feedback, it is obvious that this event is having a significant impact on the career exploration process of many of its participants. Hopefully this year's sophomores will have similar positive experiences. 🗉

Grads Pursue Education in Technical Careers

Eight members of the Class of 2001 recently began their post-secondary studies at New England Technical Institute (NEIT) in Warwick, Rhode Island. Several of the students have received credit for some BMR coursework related to their NEIT program of studies. The students and their programs are: Angela Lepage and Jon Sheehan – Architecture, Beth Brennick – Interior Design, Dan Brannigan – Multimedia, Rick Cambray – Computer Network Service, Rebecca Martinelli – Computer Business Management; Jeremy Blanchard – Computer Information Systems; John Neville – Electronics.

Students and parents interested in more information about technical programs at NEIT, Quinsigamond Community College and other post-secondary institutions, should contact Tech Prep Coordinator Mr. Ron Gautreau at 883-4400 or rgautreau@bmrds.net. 🗉

SCHOOL-TO-CAREER STAFF

- Pauline Allaire-Adams.....STC Coordinator**
- Ronald Gautreau.....Tech Prep Coordinator**
- Ann Phipps.....Career Specialist**
- Frances BrandinJob Shadow Coordinator**

Your questions and comments are welcome and may be sent to Pauline Allaire-Adams by e-mail at pallaire@bmrds.net or by mail to Blackstone-Millville Regional High School, 175 Lincoln St., Blackstone, MA 01504.

TEACHERS PARTICIPATE IN EXTERNSHIPS

Two BMR staff members spent several days this summer at work sites related to their teaching fields. Special needs teacher, Marsha Wintringham, visited Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) in Worcester in order to become more familiar with the post-secondary education options available for her students. She spent one day with the Director of Admissions and another at the office of the Director of Disabilities Services. In summarizing her experiences, Mrs. Wintringham stated, "I was greatly impressed by the numerous career/course offerings and the support services available." Programs include vocational and technical options, two-year associate degrees and one year certificate programs. With math and writing labs, advisors and tutoring centers, every student has an opportunity to be successful at QCC. For further information, Mrs. Wintringham can be reached by e-mail at mwintringham@bmrds.net.

Science teacher Ellie Conrad felt she needed more exposure to molecular biology techniques and equipment. To that end, she spent 3 days touring a variety of labs in the Department of Cell Biology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester.

Mrs. Conrad received instruction in the use of a variety of state-of-the-art microscopy techniques and equipment, including transmission and scanning electron microscopes, confocal and *in situ* fluorescent microscopy. She also had the opportunity to observe molecular techniques such as DNA electrophoresis, cloning, tissue cultures, and Northern, Southern, and Western blotting procedures.

Mrs. Conrad stated she was grateful for this opportunity and the experience has provided her with new insights into the connections between the classroom and the research laboratory. 🗉

Check it out...

Charger's Choices, the BMR school store, will be open during Parent Conferences from 6:30 -8:30 PM for the Middle School on Monday, November 19, and for the High School on Tuesday, November 20.

Results of Gr. 9-12 Career Interest Survey

School to Career (STC) Coordinator Pauline Allaire-Adams recently administered a survey to all BMR students in grades 9 through 12. The results of the survey will be used to organize the various components of the STC program.

Students received a survey with more than 80 careers/occupations and were asked to identify their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices. The top five career choices in each grade level are as follows:

Grade 12: Law enforcement, photographer, actor/director, architect, early childhood teacher

Grade 11: Law enforcement, psychologist, actor/director, lawyer/paralegal, coach/professional athlete

Grade 10: Lawyer/paralegal, musician, law enforcement, dancer, web designer

Grade 9: Musician/singer, coach/professional athlete, lawyer/paralegal, fashion designer, actor/director

Making Career Connections:

It is obvious that our outstanding music program is having a significant influence on the career aspirations of our students, with 84 of them indicating an interest in a music or singing career. The very talented and experienced BMR music staff can serve as a great career resource for these students if students will take the time to ask.

What an opportunity for the 74 students who are considering in a career in law enforcement! The next Blackstone Police Explorer Academy is currently recruiting for its second class. (See related article on this page.)

A career as a lawyer or paralegal apparently appeals to 68 students. How accurate are the TV and cinema portrayals of this career? Do students have any idea what a lawyer does outside of the courtroom (and what about those who never do any courtroom work)? A job shadow might prove to be very enlightening.

The career in acting is viewed as a possibility by 55 students. While BMR has no formal drama

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Explorer Police Academy

First Academy Class Graduates 10

"It's kind of like boot camp" was the reply of BMR senior Jason Berthelette when asked to describe the Police Explorer Academy. Of the 15 students who signed up for the course last fall, ten determined individuals stuck with it and graduated last May. The Explorers continue to meet twice per month to further their training and plan projects.

During the 12 week course, the students studied criminal and civil law, trained in defensive tactics, and were taught about the various aspects of traffic control. They participated in ride-alongs with officers, learned radio codes, and became familiar with the use of radar equipment and patrol car computers. They also received firearms safety training and are eligible to be certified for Firearms Identification (FID) cards.

Recently, the graduates participated in an Emergency Vehicles Operation Course, at Fort Devens, in Ayre, Massachusetts. While driving an actual patrol car, they received training in its proper use, learned a variety of evasive tactics, and practiced navigating an obstacle course.

Recruiting for Upcoming Academy

Are you considering a career in law enforcement? Did you ever wish you could follow a police officer around for a work shift? Have you ever wondered if you have what it takes to be a police officer?

If you answered 'yes' to these questions and are between the ages of 14 to 21, you should make plans to attend the Police Explorer Post First-Nighter on November 12 at 7:00 PM at the Blackstone Police Department. This session will explain the 12 week Explorer Police Academy and the types of training that will be provided. The registration deadline is November 7 and interested individuals can sign up in the BMR Guidance Office or call Officer Briggs at (508) 883-1212. Parents are encouraged to attend. 📞📅

If you find work you truly enjoy, you'll never have to work another day in your life.

Confucius

program, there are quite a few community theater groups in the area. Students seriously interested in acting should check the local papers for upcoming auditions.

Finally, students should be encouraged to “think outside the box.” Don’t focus in on one career too soon. Use the Internet and guidance office materials to explore careers not previously considered. It’s a big world out there and the perfect occupation is waiting to be discovered. 🤔🤔

CAREER AWARENESS DAY 2002

The 5th Annual BMR Career Awareness Day will be held on Wednesday, April 3, 2002. All members of the junior class will participate in this career exploration program. The event will begin with a keynote address and will feature approximately 15 guest speakers from a variety of careers. 🤔🤔

Workforce Statistics

Did you know that...

...of the 147 million jobs by the year 2007, 95 million, or about 65%, will require post secondary technical training or Associate degrees.

...the largest and fastest growing segment of the emerging technical workforce is occupations that require post secondary technical training or Associate degrees.

...there are only about 57 jobs for every 100 people who earn Bachelor’s degrees

...in the labor market, above-average wages are a return for occupational skills in demand and related post secondary education, not just any college degree.

(Source: *Other Ways to Win*, Ken Gray)

What does this all mean? Parents and students need to consider that the workforce is changing and evolving. While certain careers require Bachelor’s degrees, the segment of the U.S. labor market that is growing the fastest is in the area of technical and skilled careers requiring an Associate degree or post secondary training. This important fact should be kept in mind as students participate in the career exploration process during their high school years. 🤔🤔