

BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR NEWSLETTER



BFS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022 EDITION

www.busanforeignschool.org



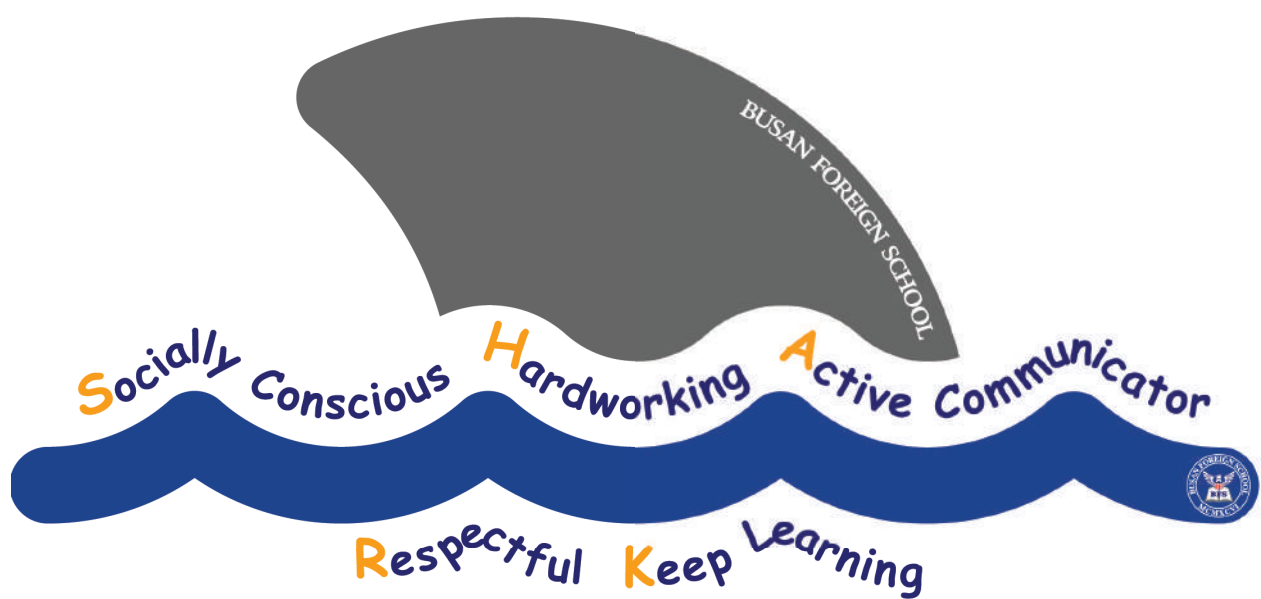
BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL
Embracing Diversity, Striving for Excellence



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BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL

Embracing Diversity, Striving for Excellence

Thankful For Our Community



BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL | SEPTEMBER 2022 EDITION

Word from the Principals

Lauren Harvey & Carl Brenneman

We've had a great start to the school year with all students attending in person. We hope everyone had an enjoyable Chuseok holiday with family. We are thankful for our kind, patient, and dedicated teachers across Early Childhood through High School who challenge students to develop socially and emotionally as well as academically. Our schoolwide learner outcomes (SLOs) to become Socially Conscious, Hardworking, Active Communicators, Respectful, and Keep Learning drive all that we do.

Our students are successful academically, artistically, and athletically. We are fortunate to have started SKAC athletic practices as well as many after-school clubs based on student interest. We are proud of our high school students' accomplishments with Advanced Placement (AP) testing results and are excited to see many students challenging themselves again this year.

With students from many different nationalities, we embrace diversity as a strength by providing an inclusive library catalog; exploring music, art, literature, and history from around the world; and developing world language skills in Spanish and Korean. We strive for excellence

through our rigorous curriculum, Advanced Placement (AP) program, student leadership organizations, and extracurricular activities. Each year we welcome many new students and work hard to help them integrate into our school community by using our SLOs.

We are so grateful for the wonderful team of operations staff, teachers, students, and parents that make BFS such a precious gem of a school. Parents and family members, thank you for all you do to support our school community. We are excited to already have parent representatives on our PTSO and look forward to seeing parents in school helping with various events.

We look forward to a great school year. Together we will support students' social and emotional growth, ensure a safe learning environment, and promote a culture of learning.

Sincerely,

*Ms. Lauren Harvey
Elementary Principal*



*Mr. Carl Brenneman
Upper School Principal*



First Day of 2022-23 School Year!

The first day of school went off to a great start! Sharky came to visit, and teachers were so happy to see their students.



WASC Accreditation



Congratulations to our entire BFS community for earning a six-year accreditation through ACS-WASC. We're looking forward to continued growth and improvement as we Embrace Diversity and Strive for Excellence.



Ms. Soo-Hyun Hwang's 20th Year Celebration at BFS

Ms. Soo is celebrating her 20th year as the BFS Art Teacher. Every day, Ms. Soo teaches Kindergarten to Grade 12 students and inspires them that "every child is an artist."



Coffee With the Principals & PTSO Meeting

We had a great turnout for our first Parent Teacher Support Organization (PTSO) meeting of the school year! It is exciting to have families come into school to collaborate on organizing events for students and teachers.



BFS 2022-23 SY Chuseok

BFS celebrated the Chuseok holiday with faculty and students wearing their Hanboks. Chuseok is an important harvest holiday, time for families to gather, enjoy time together, and give thanks to their ancestors.



2022-23 SY Spirit T-Shirt Designs

We are excited to announce that the winner of this year's spirit t-shirt design competition is Andrew Gahm, Grade 6.

We would also like to congratulate our finalists:

Elementary - Mikhail Sapsay, Grade 4

Parent - Justin Cassel

Teacher - Heejin Lee

Thank you to everyone that participated by submitting a design and voting in the competition. We look forward to distributing this year's spirit t-shirt in October for Founder's Day.





Early Childhood and Elementary Counselor's Corner

This month, students met the school counselor and began the first unit of the Second Step Program. Each week, students engage in lessons that support their learning and social-emotional wellbeing. The first unit focuses on growth mindset and goal-setting. Children learn how to pay attention and manage distractions, develop a growth mindset, and apply goal-setting strategies to their social and academic lives. One way that you can support your child in developing these skills is by asking them what they are learning when the counselor comes into their classroom.

Please email me at rcastillo@bfs.or.kr if you would like more information about these lessons. I can provide you with information in English, Русский, 한국어, العربية, 中文, Kreyòl ayisyen, Hmoob, Af Soomaali, Español, Tagalog, or Tiếng Việt.



How do students and schools benefit from Social Emotional Learning?

Promote	Prevent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic success • School connectedness • A safe and respectful school climate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem behaviors • Antisocial behaviors • Impulsivity • Low academic achievement • Peer rejections

Please email at rcastillo@bfs.or.kr with any questions you have or topics you would like to see addressed this school year in the Counselor's Corner.

Early Childhood Program at BFS: Reggio Emilia

Our Early Childhood program is inspired by the Reggio Emilia model in which the outdoors is another classroom for students to explore. This week, PK3 and K4 students have been exploring nature, and they were very excited to look at caterpillars, Rolly-Pollies, and spiders under their magnifying glass.



Grade 1 Mystery Reader

In an effort to promote literacy in the Grade 1 classroom they have a Mystery Reader join the classroom on Mondays. The Mystery Reader shares a few facts about herself or himself and then students try to guess each week who their 'Mystery Reader' is for the day. Grade 1 was lucky enough to be joined by Ms. Cottier, our MS Language Arts & MS Social Studies teacher.



Margaret Wins 90th International Friendship Student Art Conference Prize



Congratulations to Margaret (Grade 1) who won the prize with a brilliant result in The 90th International Friendship Student Art Conference which was organized by Korea Art Education Association. Great job being a hardworking shark during summer break!



Elementary Morning Meeting

Every day, Elementary classes start with a Morning Meeting as part of the Responsive Classroom approach. The Grade 4 Morning Meeting with Ms. Pehl included a greeting with partners sharing about favorite treats, a fun game of telephone and an interactive message that engaged students in sharing their favorite part of this week. Morning Meeting helps all students feel welcomed into the classroom and ready to engage in learning and helps teachers to reinforce expectations for behavior and interaction.



September SHARK SLO Assembly

September 2nd was the first SHARK Schoolwide Learner Outcome (SLO) Assembly of the year for Elementary. Ms. Harvey and Ms. A-C, along with #Anchored4Life members, shared what it means to be Socially conscious and why it is important to care about everyone, be empathetic and inclusive of different opinions, appreciate all cultures, and work well in groups.



Celebrating International Dot Day

To celebrate International Dot Day, students in the library read *The Dot* and discussed the power of kindness, encouragement, and believing in yourself. They then created their own unique dots to “make their mark” and transformed them into 3D spheres using the Quiver app!



Anchored4Life Club Supports the Elementary Community

The Anchored4Life Club provides support to Elementary students as they move away from BFS. The Moving bag farewell presentation is a way for students to have closure and feel supported as they transition from our school. The Grade 5 A4L members did a great job with the presentation on Friday September 16th and we will all miss our leaving student who has been a great part of our community!





Middle School & High School Counselor's Corner

For many adolescents, the middle and high school years are a time of high stress. Some common reactions to stress are excitement, fear, anxiety, sadness, and anger. Each adolescent reacts in a different way. Some adolescents withdraw from others, some lash out at others, and some actively seek the comfort of others. The development of coping skills will help them tolerate, reduce, and manage stressful situations. During the first quarter of this year, I will be visiting all of the Advisory classes to introduce myself to the students, explain how to make an appointment with me, and discuss stress management and coping skill development. One way that you can support your child in developing these skills is by having a conversation with them and asking them to identify ways they can feel better when they are feeling overwhelmed, sad, or worried. Who can they talk to? What can they think about? What activities do they find relaxing/distracting/enjoyable?

Here are some suggestion your adolescent might consider:

- 1. Breathing deeply and visualizing a safe calm place*
- 2. Drawing or painting*
- 3. Holding an ice cube*
- 4. Sucking on a peppermint*
- 5. Sipping a cup of hot tea*
- 6. Reading*
- 7. Going for a brisk 10-minute walk*
- 8. Making a gratitude list*
- 9. Doing a good deed*
- 10. Counting backwards from 500*
- 11. Writing something positive about yourself for every letter of the alphabet*

Please email at rcastillo@bfs.or.kr with any questions you have or topics you would like to see addressed this school year in the Counselor's Corner.

2022-23 SY MS/HS Clubs Fair

On Thursday, August 25th, BFS students learned about after-school club options and met others who share their interests.



2022-23SY Middle School Student Council Members

Congratulations to the newly elected Middle School Student Council members:

- **Co-Presidents:** Vivian C. & Ruby C.
- **Secretary:** Mina C.
- **Treasurer:** Daniil N.
- **G8 Representative:** Jun J.
- **G7 Representative:** (position still unfilled)
- **G6 Representatives:** Bobby L. & Andrew G.

We appreciate Mrs. Brenneman advising MS StuCo and look forward to an exciting year!



Ms. AC Visits Grade 6 Classroom

Our sixth graders will be facing new social, emotional, and academic challenges throughout the year as they adjust to the rigors of middle school. But no need to fear! Ms. AC is here! Today, Ms. Austin-Castillo, our school counselor dropped by the 6th-grade reading class to talk about how to make an appointment with her if they ever need anyone to talk to, or just need a break from the stresses of middle school. Social and emotional health is a top priority when it comes to fostering a positive learning environment.



Middle School Drama Class

This year, BFS is offering a Drama Class for middle schoolers! Through out the semester, students will learn how to project their voices and be comfortable speaking in front of an audience as we play drama games. They will also learn about character development and improve our storytelling skills with plot development practice.



Middle School Computer Science Class

Middle School Computer Science is currently wrapping up their first unit of Python programming. In the unit, students were introduced to the Python programming language, logic, and syntax by learning how to make drawings -- creating shapes and adjusting their properties through the use of required and optional parameters. To end the unit, students were paired up to plan and diagram their own custom scenes, using what they deemed as the most important concepts of the unit.



MS & HS Choir Singing “Doraji”

On September 8th, MS & HS Choir performed the traditional Korean folk song, ‘Doraji’, arranged by Audrey Snyder. Scan the QR code to see their performance.



AP Psychology Class

In AP Psychology class, we are talking about how psychology is a science and the study of behavior and mental processes in animals and humans. Students reflect on their own behavior and mental processes while blowing bubbles. Memory, sensation, perception, cognition, and brain biology are just some connections we are making to our units while bubble-blowing!



BFS GSA Club Fundraising Helps DDing Dong LGBTQ Youth Crisis Support Center

In 2021-22 school year, BFS GSA Club raised \$1,272 USD for the nonprofit in Korea that helps youth that identify as LGBTQ+. One of our student's families anonymously donated an additional \$1,000 USD in honor of GSA bake sale and the GSA staff presentation.



Scan here to see GSA's impacts of their donation!



Chloe Chung Awarded as the “Best Delegate” in HMUN III

In July, Chloe Chung from BFS participated in HMUN III, organized and sponsored by Hanyang University and Hope to the Future Association. In recognition of her performance during the two-day tournament, Chloe was awarded as the “Best Delegate” of her committee! **(Normally, in Model United Nations tournaments, the Best Delegate award is given to the delegate who performs, prepares, and is the most knowledgeable in the entire committee.)*

As the delegate of China in the United Nations General Assembly Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee), Chloe contributed to a productive discussion on ‘Ensuring Protection of the Rights and the Youth for Children Soldiers’. She mainly focused on maintaining a balance between the principle of national sovereignty and international sanctions on the parties accused.

She was particularly recognized for conducting effective negotiations with her counterpart bloc member states. Despite the aggression from the delegate of the other bloc (to reflect the real international conflicts), Chloe focused on urging other participants to put aside their ideological difference and join her in drafting a common resolution on the agenda. Great job Chloe promoting BFS Shark values!



Ryan Sim Wins KMUNCCC 2022 Prize

During summer break Ryan Sim (Grade 10) participated in KMUNCCC 2022 held by Korea University(고려대학교) and won the excellence prize!

Ryan was the delegate of The Argentine Republic and I was in high school committee 3a. His committee had the agenda of “Adopting Measures to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Livestock Production.”

In this competition they did not have a resolution but had a COP decision. The COP decision was written with all delegates and the award was given based on the participation in writing the decision and whether the delegate gave a fruitful debate or not during the 7 sessions. Well done Ryan!



Brian Choi Earns a Bronze Placement at the GENIUS Olympiad

Special shout-out to Brian Choi in grade 12 for his award-winning creative writing piece that earned him a bronze placement at the annual GENIUS Olympiad held by Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) and cosponsored by Terra Science and Education. The GENIUS Olympiad hosts high school student projects with an environmental focus in science, robotics, art, creative writing, short film, and music categories.

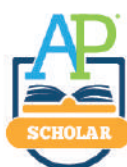
Brian penned a very insightful piece about the disappearing topography due to coastal erosion on Jeju Island entitled -- “Jeju Island Heaven on Earth or Paradise Lost?” It’s an essay that focuses on one of his favorite places on Jeju and unfortunately each year he visits it is eroding more and more due to rising sea levels.

Hats off to Brian for bringing awareness to this local issue -- land erosion is not just happening in far-off places, but is happening right here at home in Korea. This is a great example of Brian exemplifying Social Consciousness -- one of our Schoolwide Learning Outcomes. Way to go Brian!



AP Awards, Accolades and Honors

We saw **51** BFS students sit for **140** AP exams in the 2021-22 AP testing season – the most tests taken in the school's history. **41** of these test taken earned some degree of recognition for their hard work and achievement.



8 AP SCHOLARS

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.



2 AP SCHOLARS WITH HONORS

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.



22 AP SCHOLARS WITH DISTINCTION

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.



6 AP CAPSTONE DIPLOMAS

Granted to students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on 4 additional AP Exams of their choosing.



2 AP INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMAS

Awarded only to international students who score a 3 or higher on five exams and shows mastery of two languages.

2022-23 SY HS STUCO Class Representatives

Congratulations to our newly formed High School Student Council class representatives! Looking forward to an amazing year with the HS STUCO!

9th Grade:

- Moss Decker
- Schuyler Lee

10th Grade:

- Chloe Chung
- Kokomi Flores

11th Grade:

- Andrew Rivers
- Victoria Yuguy

12th Grade:

- Brian Choi
- Yujin Tatar
- Chankyu Yang



After School Sports Season Starts

SKAC sports practices started for ES & MS Futsal, HS Volleyball, and ES/MS/HS Cross Country. Our Hardworking Sharks are learning teamwork and persistence as they strive to do their personal best.

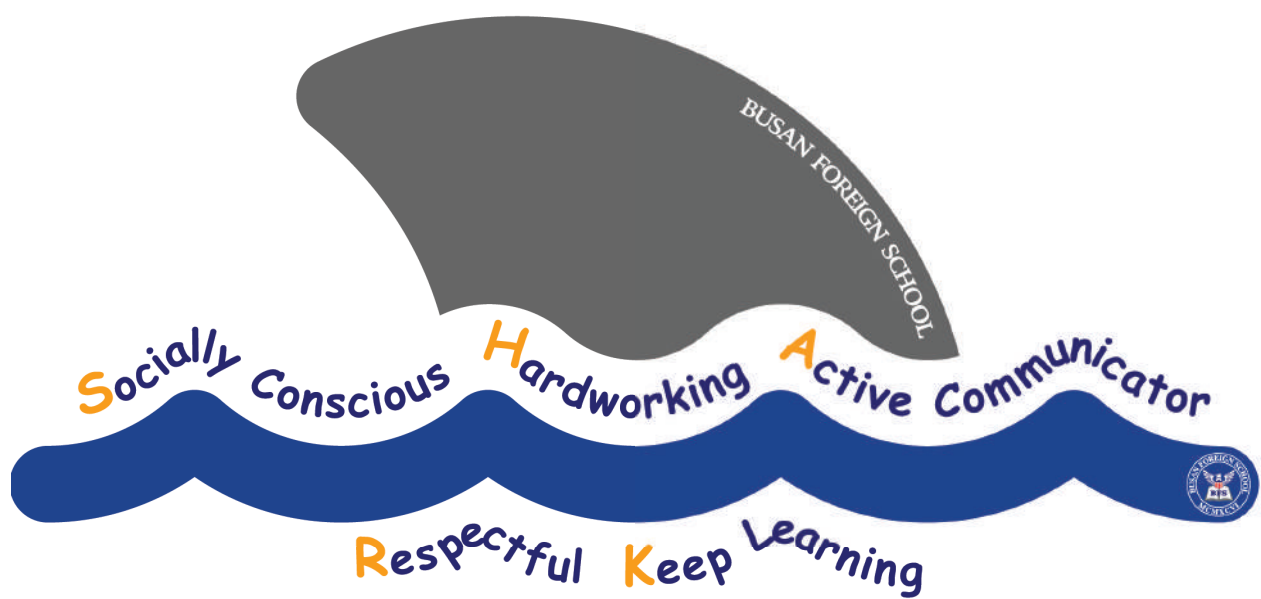


Images of the Month



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