

Invitations are extended to incoming 8th graders and their families to preview all extracurricular activities, clubs, and organizations in the spring. Names and contact information are collected for follow up. FISH camp for freshmen further supports involvement and successful transitioning to high school. In the beginning of freshmen year, there is a push to encourage 9th graders to get involved. Freshmen and new students are given a questionnaire to help them find a group in which to connect.

With a sense of connectedness, attendance improves which is a focus of the Campus Improvement Plan (CIP). One of the steps to graduation is attending class. Recently, a system was implemented to encourage regular, prompt attendance in class. When a student is tardy, the student reports to his Assistant Principal's office for a tardy pass from "the tardy machine." For every unexcused absence a call is made to the home phone by an automated system informing the parents of the absence.

| ATTENDANCE CHART | |
|------------------|-------|
| 2006/07 | 94.7% |
| 2007/08 | 95% |

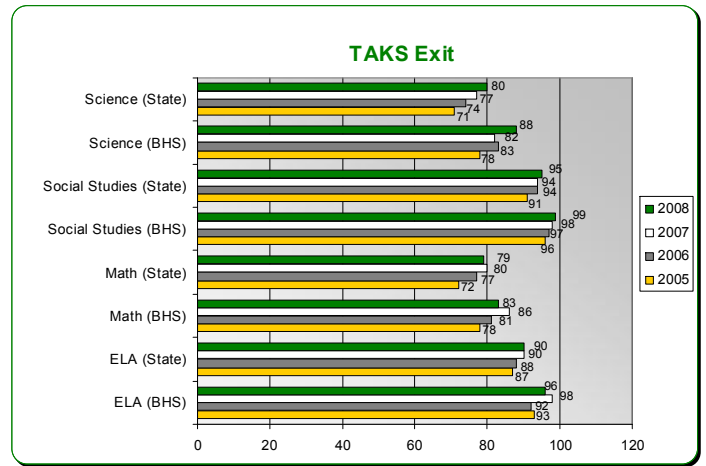
Feeling connected and involved at school creates a sense of ownership. BHS believes when students feel the school is "their school," this has the added effect of creating a safe environment. To foster a safe environment, Assistant Principals and students created a multimedia presentation to address the due process information, rules and safety issues. This video approach is shown to every new student who enrolls. Adults entering the building are required to sign in the office where scanning the driver's license accesses police databases to alert school personnel of unsafe visitors.

Another safety program is Operation HEART encompassing plans for any disasters on campus and outlining personnel responsibilities. SST is an integral part of the response as well as the much needed debriefing afterwards. Additionally, drug dogs visit and Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are installed at various locations throughout the school. The Student Resource Officer and security officer members of the SST monitor inside and outside the building. A Crimestopper's phone number is available for students to make anonymous reports. Students are given a reference number to claim any available rewards. Play It Safe presentations by the local Women's Shelter address the issues of dating safety.

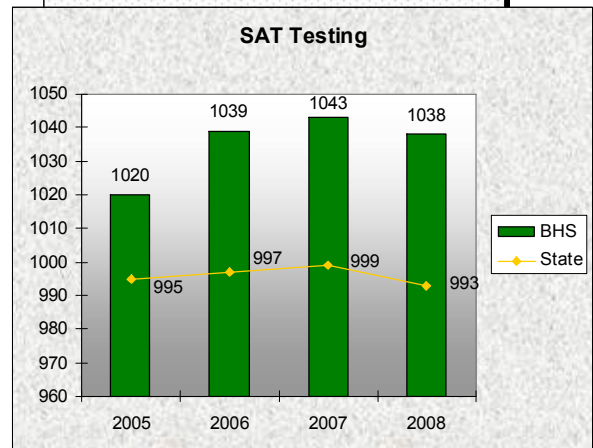
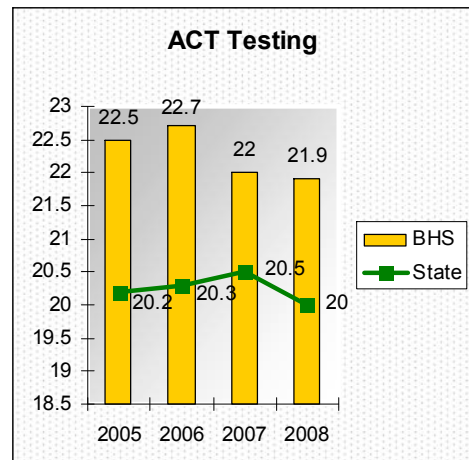
Student Results

Test results continue to be the focus of state, district and local administrators. Test results are the main portion of the Academic Excellence Indicator Systems (AEIS). BHS has continued to maintain scores above the state level. The improved scores are attributed to improved communication with students and parents by the SST and faculty about the importance of the tests. Improvement is built by the SST into the CIP each year. BHS has hosted a testing specialist spring and fall of each year for PSAT, ACT and SAT. TAKS tutorials are offered with the intention of meeting the needs of the most students possible. Test dates are advertised on the website and with phone calls home.

BHS has shown improvement in the number of students receiving commended status on the TAKS. With rigor in mind, this is also a focus of the CIP. Individual conferences with students regarding academics, career or personal interests are an integral part of the State Counseling Standards. Emphasis is made with juniors taking exit level TAKS to perform their very best with the nice consequence of being exempt from the THEA college placement test.



Despite the increasing changes to lower socio-economic populations, the SST and counselors are encouraging students to pursue rigorous courses and use these skills to set college goals. ACT and SAT college entrance scores reflect yearly improvement. Academic counseling includes detailed information on Distinguished Achievement Plan (DAP) advanced measures and college tuition reductions.



Students become aware of the benefits of college level coursework during high school. Two avenues to gain college credit are Advanced Placement classes and testing as well as dual/concurrent enrollment. With the district purchasing AP tests for all students, the number of students taking AP tests increased by 60.9%. In May of 2008, 40% of the students received scores of 3, 4 or 5.