

Why Has BFA Become a School of Choice?

BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #48 NORTHWEST TECHNICAL CENTER PROPOSED FY '11-12 SCHOOL BUDGET INITIATIVES

The proposed budget for the coming school year reflects the board, administration and faculty plans to continue providing strong academic programs that meet BFA/NWTC's rigorous academic standards. BFA/NWTC is a SCHOOL OF CHOICE! Our projected enrollment for next year is 1130 with an estimate of over 60% of the student population represented by St. Albans City and Town. The BFA Board and Administration seek to maintain and expand on this reputation. Our core curriculum provides a comprehensive program in English, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science. Each program is designed to meet the needs of students of all abilities and interests. Our elective program balances this core in the area of the Arts, Physical Education, Technology, Health Education, World Languages, Business, and Real/Life. The NWTC offers current, cutting edge programs to assist all learners regardless of age in establishing and attaining their career goals. Working together, BFA and NWTC have established a curriculum second to none.



As we plan and prepare for the coming school year, BFA/NWTC continues to work hard to show continued improvement. To this end, BFA/NWTC presents the following initiatives that have been approved by the School Board and are included in our school budget for the 2010-11 school year.

Social Studies Department: The proposed budget includes funds to support a new advanced placement course in our Social Studies Department. We are pleased that our present staff is well qualified to instruct this new course; and we will not have additional cost in

the budget for staffing.

Advance Placement Psychology – This course will fulfill a unique role for Bellows Free Academy Advanced Placement programs. AP Psychology is an excellent introduction to the world of Advanced Placement. It is a course designed with equity and excellence in mind. AP Psychology is considered a “gateway course” by the College Board because it is accessible to heterogeneous groups. This course will introduce Junior and Senior high school students to college level introductory Psychology. The AP course will provide students with information that matters in understanding the world and themselves including major psychological theories of the past and present, the role of the Scientific Method in Psychology and biology and behavior.



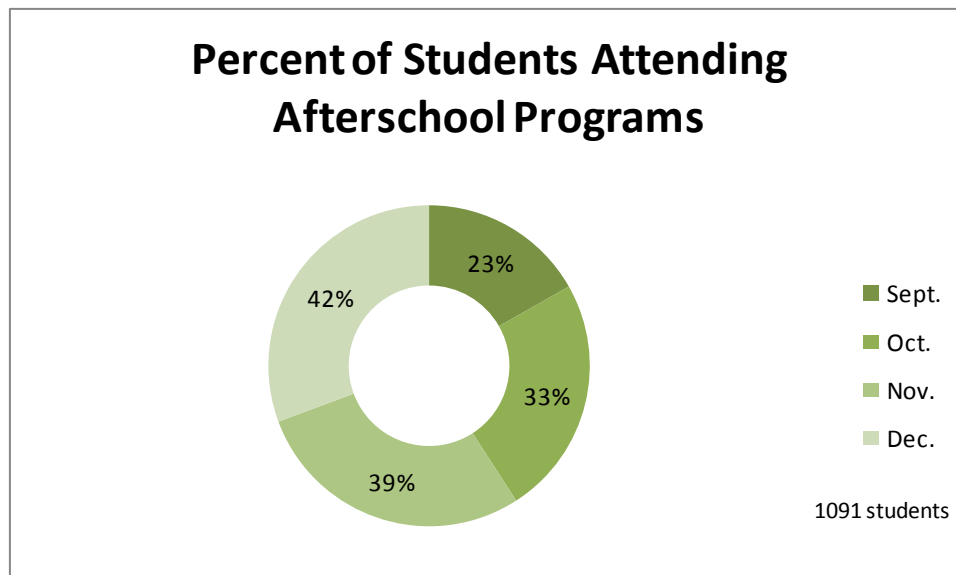
Control of root and stem growth (AP Biology)

Of special note regarding BFA's AP programs, over the past six years, we have expanded our AP program by adding Advanced Placement Biology, Advanced Placement Physics, Advanced Placement U.S. Government, and Advanced Placement Statistics. With the addition of AP Psychology, BFA will offer a total of 11 AP programs on campus.



Virtual High School offers courses such as: Latin, Portuguese, Mandarin Chinese, Russian, Entrepreneurship, Introduction to Computer Science, Animation and Effects, Eastern and Western thought, and AP Calculus BC. Currently we also have a student taking the on-line version of Intro. to College Studies through CCV. BFA also has social studies, math and a NWTC teacher teaching VHS classes in their respective subject areas; with three more teachers being trained for 2011-12. BFA also offers on-line summer credit recovery. Virtual High School has also allowed us to coordinate services of VHS students at the city school. Our students continue to enjoy a high success rate in these classes while mastering relevant content and skills that will increase their ability to be productive in the 21st Century.

Our Afterschool Program has continued to be a large success. We have had 9 programs running this year with 42% of our student population attending one or more of the programs in December.



BFA Alumni Website is up and running with regular updates. Alumni can go on-line and update their addresses and contact information as well as learn about what is happening at BFA. There is a Capital Campaign link to raise money for either the Alumni Scholarship or the Auditorium Update; the most recent Newsletter; and contact information.

COLLINS PERLEY RENOVATION PROJECT PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Collins Perley Sports Center opened in 1985 as a health and wellness center for all and a community center that is vital to business, industry, and individuals alike. It had, however, shown some real signs of wear. With over 500,000 user visits per year, even the most aggressive maintenance efforts couldn't mask its age. Major renovations were necessary. Recognizing this, the voters of St. Albans City and St. Albans Town passed a bond vote to fund renovations. Some were completed during the summer of 2009. The balance of this work was done over the past year. We are pleased to provide an overview of the renovations that took place over the past year and where we stand in the process.

Indoor projects:

- New energy efficient boilers were installed for our domestic hot water. These boilers will reduce maintenance costs, save energy, save money, and lower our carbon footprint. Funding for this work came from the bond and from an Energy Efficiency Retrofit grant administered by the Vermont Department of Public Service.
- The floor covering in the North Hall (Tennis Courts) was replaced. The new floor is a true multi-purpose floor that will provide an excellent surface for many years to come.

Outdoor projects:

- We installed a wind testing tower with speed and direction monitoring equipment. This monitoring will enable us to determine if Collins Perley is a good site for locating a wind turbine to produce electricity. It is a very preliminary step as many questions will need to be addressed if conditions prove wind generation is financially desirable.
- The use of grants and other assistance will enable us to do additional work to introduce a number of model programs designed by Vermont Clean and Clear of the Agency of Natural Resources. These programs are designed to provide in-stream filtration and cleaning and, if successful, will serve as a model for other waterways. These grants were made possible by the Town of St. Albans and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

Web Site:

- FCSU Web Master, Greg Titcomb has developed a Collins Perley Web Site. It is collinsperley.com. It provides complete information on facilities, activities and events.

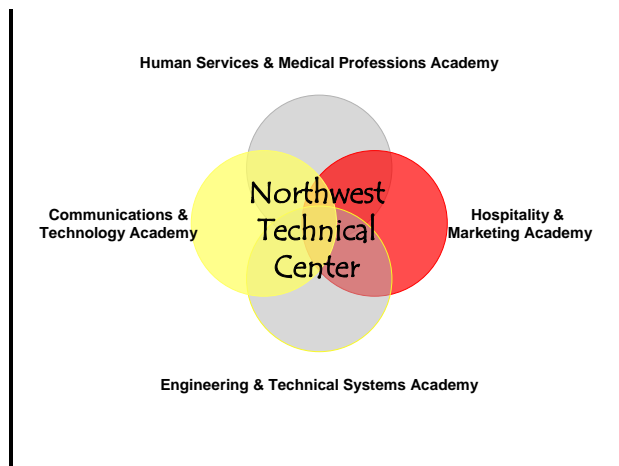
Planned projects for FY 2012:

- Work is planned to adapt existing locker room and shower areas to be more sensitive to the needs of an athletic program with equal opportunity for male and female students.
- Storage space is planned to insure equipment for our expanding programs can be stored and cared for safely.

Northwest Technical Center Initiatives

Introducing Career Academies

Northwest Technical Center introduced a new academy design in August. Under the new format, programs work together under a model that provides more opportunities for collaboration between students and teachers of related programs. Using the Vermont Department of Education's Career Cluster model, we have interconnected our eleven programs into the following four academies:



Communications & Technology Academy

Digital Arts
Video Production

Engineering & Technical Systems Academy

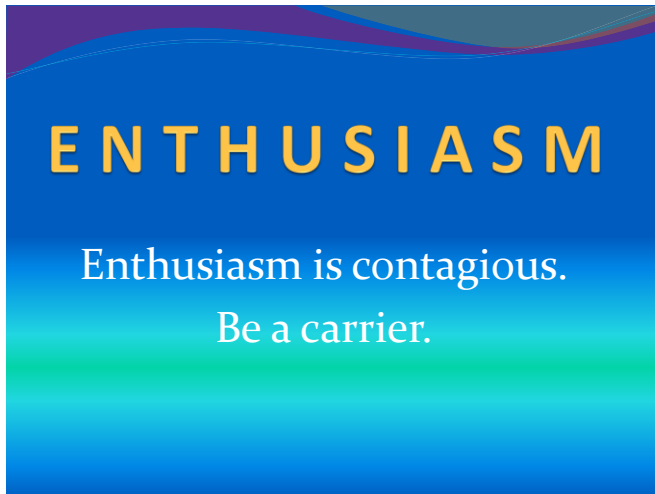
Automotive Technology
Building Trades
Engineering Technologies

Hospitality & Marketing Academy

Culinary Arts
Marketing

Human Services & Medical Professions Academy

Cosmetology
Emergency & Fire Services
Human Services
Medical Professions



Positive Worker Traits

The Tech Center is focusing on two positive worker traits per semester. These worker traits are also known as “soft skills” and are often what separate individual contributors from business leaders and managers. Employers continually report that they can teach employees the “technical skills” needed, but “soft skills” such as work ethic, critical thinking, and interactions with co-workers are not so easily taught. This fall, we focused on TEAMWORK and then SELF-CONFIDENCE. Currently, we are focusing on ENTHUSIASM. Posters are displayed throughout the

Tech Center in the hallways and in classrooms. Teachers integrate examples of these positive worker traits into lessons and discussions with students where appropriate.



BFA English and Northwest Technical Center Programs

This school year the Tech Center is piloting a program in our Human Services & Medical Professions Academy afternoon classes in which students earn their required high school English credit during their Tech Center program. The programs involved include Human Services, Medical Professions, Emergency & Fire Services, and Cosmetology. An English instructor from BFA co-teaches with the Tech Center teachers to integrate the English standards into the tech curriculum, which has been a very successful partnership for our students. Next year English will be incorporated in the Communications & Technology and Hospitality & Marketing Academies as well.



Preparing Students for Careers

All of the students in the Tech Center complete an extensive “Employability Unit” within their individual program of study. The main components include-- but are not limited to-- completion of quality resumes that are evaluated by current industry standards, and interview preparation. The culmination of this program includes mock interviews within their programs and participation in the Northwest Technical Center senior interview day. Students also participate in the Franklin Region Career/Job Expo where they are encouraged to dress

appropriately and come with their resumes in hand. In addition, Tech Center students can participate in Job Shadows, Career Work Experiences, and traditional Co-ops (where they are employed in a position related to their Tech Center program).



New England Association of Schools and Colleges

Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE)

Tech Center Accreditation

Every ten years the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) evaluates member schools as part of their formal accreditation process. In April, the Northwest Technical Center welcomed a thirteen member NEASC team to conduct our on-site evaluation. This was a very comprehensive process which included individual program self-study, as well as, whole school self-study. We are pleased to announce that in October we were awarded reaccreditation.