



COMMUNIQUE

NOVEMBER 2009

Students Learn to Lead

True education involves all aspects of learning for “the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come” (*Education*, p.13). Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) seeks to fulfill its God-ordained mission to direct students to the source of all good, knowledge, and wisdom—Jesus Christ.

An important component of learning is leadership. The spiritual aspect of leadership continues to be emphasized in Leadership Bible 11 and 12, taught by Pastor Duane Ferguson. Since leadership is action, numerous opportunities are provided for students to practice their leadership skills.

Two classes have been added that address leadership in the workplace. Business leaders and board members Barbara Rutt and Jon Larrabee teach Steps to Leadership, and Leadership in the Workplace. These classes go beyond theoretical concepts through hands-on activities and interactive, online assessment tools.

Rutt’s class covers the qualities, styles, and skills of a leader. Larrabee’s class highlights the role of personal values in leadership, ethical decision-making skills, career options, basic organizational development, and management process tools. The high school national Junior Achievement curriculum will be incorporated into these courses.

As future leaders, Blue Mountain Academy students are encouraged to live in the world, but not be of the world. They are to step out in faith to develop their God-given talents for God’s glory and to spread the good news that Jesus is coming!



Craig Ziesmer
Principal

Advanced Science Course Now Available

One BMA teacher’s dream became a reality this fall with the addition of a dual credit Advanced Placement Biology course to the school’s curriculum.

“As a student at BMA, I enjoyed science and math so much that I took as many of these classes as I could possibly

fit into my schedule. As a science teacher at BMA, I have dreamed of offering an advanced class to students who share my love of science,” explains Rose Bechtel.

The course is designed for students who like the challenge of an upper level biology course that also allows college credit. Students who take this course through Reading Area Community College (RACC) will receive eight college credits in biology, as well as high school science credit. RACC and the College Board have the course’s curriculum as an Advanced Placement course. Instead of working through RACC, some students will take the AP exam in May and earn up to eight college credits in biology.

Students who take the dual credit biology through RACC their junior year will also be eligible to take anatomy and physiology their senior year as a dual credit course and receive eight additional college credits from RACC.

Students who wish to accomplish these goals will need to be serious about their classes from the beginning of their freshman year. They will need to have solid grades in Life and Health Science, as well as Algebra I, to take both biology and chemistry their sophomore year. “We hope the incentive of dual credit courses will stimulate students to achieve their potential of excellence,” Bechtel concludes.



Rose Bechtel, a BMA science teacher and alumna, designed an upper-level biology course, which allows interested students to earn college credits.

NEWS

Cross Reminds Campus to Pray

During a recent Sabbath School program, Carlos Abreu, a parent, asked students to write prayer requests on a piece of paper and nail them to a cross



set up on the campus' lawn. The cross is a reminder that God is interested and will answer prayers. In the weeks that followed, Sabbath School classes were held on the lawn near the cross as a reminder that God is a solid foundation.

New Chaplain Welcomed

Pastor Javier Navarrete (right) recently joined BMA's faculty as an assistant chaplain. Before coming to BMA, Navarrete taught at Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy in Pleasant Hill, Calif. One of his first responsibilities at BMA included planning the fall week of prayer.



Navarrete shares that his goal is "to challenge students to have a real relationship with God that transcends words and leads into actions."

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Teacher Excels in Music, Math

Eric Engen, music and math teacher, has taught band at BMA for 23 years and bells for 17 years. He has directed the BMA Concert Band and La Sonnette Ensemble bell choir for seven years. Engen teaches private lessons for all band instruments, his favorite being the baritone horn. He



Eric Engen, BMA's music and math teacher, works with Rebecca Richards ('11) during her music lesson.

also teaches math and administers PowerSchool, BMA's online grading and attendance program.

La Sonnette Ensemble, one of the school's touring groups, has performed in many churches around the Columbia Union and in Bermuda this past spring. Under Engen's direction, La Sonnette released a CD titled *Let Us Be Joyful!* The album features a sampling of styles, including classical to contemporary, and even Christmas music.

Although the BMA Concert Band isn't a touring group, they do travel occasionally. Recently they visited the York (Pa.) church, where they presented music and testimonies for the worship service. The band performs for events such as alumni weekend, Christmas and spring concerts, and MusicFest.

Upcoming Events

December

- 11 Bel Canto Performs *Gloria* by John Rutter
- Sylvan Singers Perform *Gloria* by Antonio Vivaldi
- 12 Piano/Voice Recital
La Sonnette Ensemble
Band Concert

17-
Jan. 5 Christmas Break

January

19-23 Student FOCUS

For a more detailed schedule and up-to-the-minute information on news and happenings, check out the calendar online at bma.us.

Communique is published in the *Visitor* by Blue Mountain Academy 2363 Mountain Road, Hamburg, PA 19526 ■ Phone: (610) 562-2291 ■ Fax: (610) 562-8050 bma.us ■ Editor, Kathleen Sutton E-mail: kathys@bma.us ■ Copy Editor, Louise Corbin