



Bishop Seabury Academy Information for Parents/Guardians

Welcome to Bishop Seabury Academy! We are excited you are joining our community!

Many opportunities exist that enable parents and guardians to participate with the students year-round such as driving students to events, preparing for the annual auction, helping provide surprises for the faculty for Teacher Appreciation Week. Each person can find a way to let his or her skills and talents shine - just like our students!

Bishop Seabury Academy Parents (BSAP) is one way to access these opportunities to help on its various committees: Arts, Athletics, Hospitality, Grounds, and Social. You will receive email messages which will provide you with opportunities to get involved.

School Day: 8:00am - 3:30pm; doors open at 7:30 am.

The ABC'S of BSA:

Altera Familia ("Other Family"): This group - sometimes called "advising"- involves a group of students of various ages and a faculty member who meet several times each week to check in with and support each other. The same faculty member is assigned to your child for that student's entire tenure at BSA.

Annual Auction: The Auction is Seabury's main fundraising event for the year and is usually held in February. All parents should plan to participate in some way, either through volunteering to prepare for or work at the auction, donating items, or attending and when possible, bringing other guests.

Arts: BSA has some outstanding faculty in music and drama. Even if your student does not participate, please find the opportunity to take in one of the vocal performances or one of the dramatic presentations. Encourage your students to try something new and try out for a play. They might find that they love acting or helping with the technical aspects of the productions.

Baccalaureate: A special church service for the graduating Seniors, their families, and the faculty. It takes place during Stepping Up week.

The Calendar is subject to change, but most events are scheduled early and seldom moved around. If weather causes the cancellation or postponement of an event, people are notified by email - you can also check the school website. Some events such as sports tournament games and speech or debate meets cannot be scheduled far in advance and are subject to change. The annual academic calendar is posted on the web site and shared with parents by email in advance of the school year so family calendars can be set accordingly.

Chapel: As an Episcopal school, Seabury has chapel every Wednesday morning in place of morning meeting. Although all students are required to attend, they are not expected to be Episcopal or of any faith. The students are encouraged to respect each other's beliefs.

Chronicle: The monthly school newspaper. It is distributed at lunch and starts some fun lunchtime conversations.

Class Trips: Also called “form trips.” Each grade goes on an overnight trip in April for educational value and as a class bonding experience. Parents will be asked to pay a deposit for the trip, but much of the cost for each trip is paid for by occasional low-stress fundraisers.

Community Handbook: The handbook is available on the school website and students will receive an electronic version. Students and parents are required to read this document in order to be familiar with the culture and expectations of the Academy. All students and parents must sign an acknowledgment form for having read the Handbook and Responsible Use Policy for technology.

Community Service: This is a crucial aspect of building respect for members of the community: 20 hours of service are encouraged for middle school students and 30 hours are required of upper school students. Students will have opportunities throughout the year for service work, including “Heritage Day” (in November) in addition to others. Community service is basically any help that students give to others without receiving pay. Examples include: shoveling snow, raking leaves, dog walking, etc.

Convocation: This is our annual founder’s day celebration in honor of Bishop Samuel Seabury, where we essentially rededicate ourselves to the educational mission of the school. Students, faculty, and trustees attend this event which includes a guest speaker. Students need to be in formal attire ie. dress slacks, dress socks, sport coats, dress shirts & ties, dresses appropriate to the dress code, nice blouses, and closed-toed shoes. No tennis shoes allowed! Students should dress as if they are going to a job interview or professional kind of occasion.

Curriculum Night: At the beginning of the school year, this evening is an opportunity for parents to meet their child’s teachers, follow their child’s class schedule, hear about class curriculum, and have a chance to ask questions.

Dances: Some school dances are for all grades and some are exclusively for middle or upper school students. The Back-to-School Dance occurs shortly after school begins and is open to all students. Winter Formal (for all students) is the most widely-attended dance and is held at the Eldridge Hotel ballroom. The Spring Prom is exclusively for upperclassmen.

Dress Code: Please see the dress code section in the Handbook for more information. Any questions and the enforcing of the dress code fall to our Dean of Students, Will Whipple.

FACTS: An online administrative system used to report grade cards and to store information about students including their attendance. Our online payment system is a part of this program. All families **MUST** sign up for FACTS.

Finals: Both first and second semesters end with three days of final exams. Each exam is 90 minutes in length and takes place in the mornings (students generally have the afternoons to go home and study). Some courses will assign final projects or papers in lieu of an on-campus final. No lunches are served during finals.

Friday Letter: Dr. Schawang’s email Friday Letter is your go-to place for news about upcoming events. Be sure to read these letters, as the information included in them may not be repeated elsewhere. These emails will keep you well-informed about what has been happening and what to prepare for in the coming week. Dr. Schawang crafts an entertaining overview of the students’ week.

Fundraising: The administration seeks to avoid small and continual fundraising. There are two primary fundraising events during the year - the Seabury Annual Fund Drive and the Annual Auction. All other fundraising typically involves providing some service to the community and participants, like the Grocery Card Program.

Google Classroom: The school's online learning management system that allows students to access class materials and submit assignments and provides a convenient means for parents to follow student homework assignments and progress in classes.

Green Book: This is the school directory and will be emailed as soon as all parent information has been compiled. Paper copies can be requested as needed.

Grocery Card Program: This BSAP (Bishop Seabury Association of Parents) initiative raises money without really costing parents anything. Parents sign up for monthly cards from Lawrence grocery stores, and those grocery stores pay Seabury roughly 5-6% of the amount ordered. The cards are much more efficient than checks, cash, debit or credit cards. Please sign up! You can have the payment put on your monthly Seabury bill so if you have auto-pay set up, this will be an auto-pay as well! Makes the whole process even that much easier!

Headmaster's Holiday: Kept a surprise, the students and faculty are given the day to enjoy an activity that builds community and provides some relief from academics for a day. This is an event that normally takes place out of Lawrence within an hours driving distance. Past Holidays have included movie watching, roller skating, swimming, bowling, just to name a few!

Heritage Day: Instead of attending classes, the students do community service work with their Altera Familia (advising group) in the morning and then return to school for a presentation and trivia contest.

Lessons & Carols: This winter holiday presentation of scripture readings and choral performance by the students is held at a church site off campus, and all parents and students are invited. It is the week before Finals and has become a family tradition to attend for many families.

Lunches: The entire school eats together in the commons for lunch. The students rotate to a different lunch table every two weeks and there is an adult at each table. On Wednesdays, the advisory groups sit together for lunch. On Fridays, there is open seating.

There are two choices for lunch Monday - Thursday: bringing a lunch from home or signing up for catered lunch. On Friday there is no catered lunch. Students either bring a lunch from home or sign up in advance to participate in the Junior Class Fundraiser. Students have choices from local restaurants. It adds to the fun of Friday lunch!

Middle school (also called lower school): Grades 6-8.

Music: All 6th through 8th graders are required to be in a Music Ensemble - either Choir or Instrumental, and they will be asked to wear black attire: black dresses, dress shirts, pants, skirts, and black tights/hose with skirts or dresses. No strapless tops or dresses. Black shoes are required for all. See Mrs. Lawrence's choral handbook for detailed information.

Palooza: This festive gathering after finals in May involves student and faculty bands, a cookout, water play and other fun games and activities.

Prefects: Five seniors who are voted on by the school body and the faculty to be the top representatives of the senior class and Seabury as a whole.

Progress Reports: Teachers will send out these reports periodically. In September, parents will receive reports for all of a student's courses; thereafter, reports will only be sent each quarter when students are struggling in courses or have shown a marked change in progress.

Reese Hall: The South wing of campus houses fine arts, languages, and some English, math, and history classes. The Senior Lounge and upper school lockers are also in Reese Hall.

Renaissance Day: A full day in the spring of non-traditional classes taught by the faculty and high school students. Some examples are learning to drive a stick shift, making an English breakfast, kickball, crafting, etc. It is a chance for the students to learn about the faculties' and students' passions outside of school.

Seabury (Annual) Fund: Like all independent schools, Bishop Seabury Academy holds an annual fund drive in the fall to help cover the total expenses for educating the Seabury student body, expenses that are not covered solely by tuition and fees. All parents, trustees, faculty, alumni, and friends are encouraged to participate in order to reach our goal of 100% participation.

Senior Dinner: This is a special event for the graduating seniors and their families to enjoy a dinner with the faculty. Speeches are given and the evening ends with a slideshow presentation created by one or more of the seniors. This takes place immediately after the Baccalaureate.

Sports: BSA is committed to offering students a range of athletic programs for education, enjoyment, and camaraderie. In order to maintain the quality of these programs, students need to participate. We have fall, winter, and spring sport seasons.

Spring Fever Grudge Match followed by Spring Break: During the week before Spring Break, there is a series of competitive events between the faculty and the student body. The week is wrapped up with the epic Battle of the Bands between the faculty and students. It takes place on Friday afternoon and the students are dismissed for Spring Break following the Battle. Spring Break is two weeks long and includes an optional trip overseas.

Stepping Up: The school's most cherished ceremony occurs in May. Graduates are recognized for accomplishments and are acknowledged as adults. Other students literally "step up" to the next grade. All students are required to attend this event in Convocation style attire.

Student Success Center: We have a dedicated quiet space where students of any age group can seek help from Ms. Baker Powers. She also meets regularly with the faculty and the parents of students with whom she works. She works with students one-on-one or with any other number of students in small groups.

Transportation: The school owns vans for transporting students to a variety of events. When necessary, parents may be asked to be drivers.

Upper school: Grades 9-12.

WRAP Counselor: WRAP stands for Wellness Recovery Action Plan and is an offshoot of the Bert Nash Mental Health Center. We are so fortunate to have the very calm, caring, forward-thinking Kalli McClure as our WRAP Counselor.

Yearbooks: These are distributed at Orientation in August. Parents or siblings of graduates can pick theirs up anytime beginning at the end of August.

(updated 10.29.25, LLS)

Key people to call for specific questions:

Attendance, General School Issues, and Lunches: Betsy Alford

BSAP: Jenny Razak, (jennyrazak@yahoo.com)

College Counseling: Matt Patterson

Donations, Seabury Annual Fund, Auction: Ellen Chindamo

Drama: Elizabeth Sullivan

Facilities: Joe Simpson

Music: Margie Lawrence

Payments: Bonnie Bribiesca

Scheduling: Kara Schrader

Student Support, Rules, Jobs, Senate: Will Whipple

Sports: Brian Rios

Technology: Julie Pearce (juliepearce@seaburyacademy.org)

WRAP Counselor: Kalli McClure

*You should always feel free to contact your student's **advisor** if you have any questions about your child's general progress. If you have any questions or concerns about a class, a sports team, or a play, please contact the respective **teacher, coach, or director**.*

2025-2026 Class Captains:

6th: Jen and Jay Kalbas (Zeke) jennifer.kalbas@yahoo.com

7th: Kristen and Tom Helling (Thomas) kristenhelling@yahoo.com

8th: Eb and Bashar Ababneh (Rand) ebtehal.sawalmeh@gmail.com

9th: Brandy and George Brajkovic (Max) brandy.brajkovic@gmail.com

10th: Lindsay and Chad Roesler (Livia) clroesler1@gmail.com

11th: Julie and Jeff Smith (Ethan) julie@twofreckledfrogs.com

12th: Jennifer and Dane Oldridge (Xeva) dojo@sunflower.com

Faculty Sponsors for Class Form Trips:

6th: Ms. Lovett, Mr. LaRocca, Dr. Asher, Ms. Barclay

7th: Mr. Meier, Ms. Meyers, Srta. Fernandez, Ms. Lawrence

8th: Mr. Rios, Mme Buckner, Ms. Porter

9th: Mr. Whipple, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, (Dr. Schawang)

10th: Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Bajorek, Mr. Patterson

11th: Mr. Nelson, Mr. Pulsinelli, Ms. Schrader

12th: Mr. Richmond, Ms. Czarnecki, Dr. Eicher