Armstrong High Contemporary Social Problems class

Small class? Big plus!

Around this 4-foot by 10-foot light-grained wooden table sit tomorrow’s registered nurses, dentists and U.S. marshals, journalists, teachers and safety engineers, today’s 15- to 17-year-olds who as the evening sun illuminates their notebooks are being enlightened by a roundtable discussion as part of Butler County Community College’s College Within the High School program. Twelve sophomores through seniors assemble for three hours on Thursday.

They get the student-to-teacher ratio that is about as perfect as they can get.”

Kevin Shamblin, Union High instructor

BC3 101: BC3 is the No. 1 community college in Pennsylvania in 3 consecutive rankings! – Schools.com. ... BC3’s tuition is among the most affordable of 43 regional colleges and universities! – U.S. Department of Education.

70% DEBT FREE 70% of BC3 graduates are debt-free!
Small class? Big plus!

**Why they enrolled in BC3’s College Within the High School program!**

**It is a major opportunity toward my future career … and a smart financial choice.**

*Amorae Waters, Union High*

**I want to get a head start on college credits. No matter where I go, these credits will apply.**

*Samantha MacDonald, Mars High*

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**Instructor: Discussions “help them to process the information”**

Added Armstrong student Lucas Gawlinski, who envisions a career as a U.S. Marshall: "You can discuss a problem more than taking an online course where you just read a little chapter and that’s it."

Those discussions “help them to process the information,” Smith said.

“It is really important to me with the classes I teach that they experience the class,” Smith said. “I always tell them at the beginning of the semester that you can have fun and learn at the same time. So we do a lot of activities and a lot of things for them to experience and to process the information rather than just something that they are learning. I think it means more to them that way. I also think they remember it better.”

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**Spring 2020 Registration Dates for College Pathways Students**

**Nov. 4:** Start of class registration for current students.

**Nov. 18:** Start of class registration for new students.

For more information and to register, contact Erin Cioffi, Assistant Director of High School Programming 724-287-8711 Ext. 8254, or erin.cioffi@bc3.edu.
Loan debt ‘a hassle’

Students in BC3 program plan savings for rent, cars

Lauren Jablunovsky wants to be tested intellectually, not financially. Jablunovsky enrolled in Butler County Community College’s Microeconomics course this fall at Mars High because “I knew I wanted to take some challenging courses this year,” she said. “I knew the College Within the High School classes would let me do that. If I can get credits that will transfer to whatever college I end up going to, that would be important to me as well.”

That college may be BC3, she said, because “I know it is a more affordable option to attend a two-year school instead of wasting money changing around my major at a four-year school. Maybe go to a two-year and then transfer to a four-year school.”

BC3’s tuition is among the most affordable of 43 regional two- and four-institutions. Its credits transfer to public, private and online four-year institutions.

The average student loan debt for the Class of 2018 is $35,510 in Pennsylvania, the highest among all states except Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Connecticut, according to LendEDU.

Seventy percent of BC3 graduates are debt-free.

Student debt, said Jablunovsky, who may attend BC3’s main campus, “is a hassle. You get out of college and you are free, but you have all this student debt. No one wants to deal with that.”

Nor does Mars High microeconomics classmate Nabil Lahlou, who is considering attending BC3’s main campus and studying “something related to business.

“Just looking long-term, down the road, money is everything in your life,” Lahlou said. “It is important to live comfortably. You don’t want student debt and student loans.”

Alexandra Buckner, a Union High student in BC3’s General Psychology course, said student-loan debt is “life-changing” and that she would rather spend her income following graduation “renting an apartment. Paying for car insurance.

“I’m going to try to do everything I can to avoid being buried in student debt,” said Buckner, who may attend BC3 @ Lawrence Crossing in New Castle and envisions a career as a nurse.

“Just looking long-term, down the road, you have all this student debt. No one wants to deal with that,” she said.

Buckner’s story focused on student debt.

As is the chance to do so within a student’s own high school or learning center.

“If it’s right in my school,” Mars student Aria Ramanathan said.

“It seamlessly fits into my schedule like any other class,” Mars student Connor Bird said. “They are doing it here,” Pfeiffer said.

Which, Jablunovsky said, will help her to get there. There, to her career possibly as a journalist, possibly starting as a communications major at BC3 – “I like learning other people’s stories” – while not having her own story focused on student debt.

“I really want to have a great job right out of school where I can make money that I can save for other important things and not be paying it all back to student debt,” Jablunovsky said. “That would be really important and beneficial.”
Fall 2019 College Within the High School Classes

Armstrong County
- Armstrong Junior-Senior High
  Contemporary Social Problems
- Lenape Technical School
  General Psychology

Butler County
- Butler Area Senior High
  College Writing, General Psychology, Principles of Sociology (2), Technical Math
- Butler County Vocational-Technical
  Business Math
- Mars Area High
  American National Government, Business Math, Elementary Statistics, General Psychology (2), Marketing, Microeconomics, Productivity Applications, Speech (2)
- Pittsburgh-Butler Regional Airport
  College Writing
- Portersville Christian
  College Writing, Introduction to Philosophy
- Seneca Valley High
  Computer Information Systems, General Psychology, Introduction to Philosophy, Microeconomics, Principles of Sociology, Speech
- Summit Academy
  General Psychology, Western Civilization I

Clarion County
- Keystone Junior-Senior High
  Recent U.S. History

Clearfield County
- DuBois Central Catholic High
  College Writing (2), Speech

Jefferson County
- Brockway Area Junior-Senior High
  General Psychology

Lawrence County
- Lawrence County Career & Tech
  Speech
- Lincoln High
  College Writing (2), Speech
- Riv-Ell Entrepreneurship Program
  Introduction to Entrepreneurship, The Business Plan
- Union Area Middle-High
  General Psychology
- Wilmington Area High
  20th-Century World History

Mercer County
- Farrell Area High
  Macroeconomics
- Reynolds Junior-Senior High
  General Psychology

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The BC3 Education Foundation Inc. is approved by the Commonwealth as an Innovative Education Program under EITC guidelines. If you are interested in supporting BC3’s College Within the High School program, email Ruth Purcell, executive director of the BC3 Education Foundation, at ruth.purcell@bc3.edu.

Contact BC3!

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Records & Registration Ext. 8510
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