

# SMOKE SIGNALS

VOLUME 71 ISSUE 3

For The Parents, Staff, Students & Community Of Boone High School

Brought To You By PTSO

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Friends of Boone High School,

Welcome back Boone Braves! 2023 was an incredible year and I am looking forward to another great year for our students and community in 2024. As we usher in the new year, it is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome back to each and every one of our students, families, and staff members. I trust that the winter break provided you with moments of rest, laughter, and connection with loved ones.

I want to express my gratitude to our families and community members for your continued partnership. Your involvement with Boone is invaluable. The combined efforts with the Parent Teacher Student Organization, the Boone High School Athletic Association, and the Boone High School Foundation provide numerous opportunities for our students and teachers and I am looking forward to another great year of collaboration.

The new semester promises to provide exciting events and academic growth for every student. I challenge all of our Braves to be the best version of themselves and aim high. The new semester is an opportunity to restart and refocus before the end of the school year. For our seniors, this is it. Graduation is just a few short months away. You are nearly at the finish line and I cannot wait to celebrate all of your accomplishments on May 28, at the UCF Addition Financial Arena! For our underclassmen, you want to stay focused on meeting those graduation requirements including GPA and testing requirements. It will be Senior Year before you know it and you want to be on track!

Finally, communication will be key to our success. Please visit our website at [www.boonehs.ocps.net](http://www.boonehs.ocps.net) for all things "Boone Braves." There you can subscribe to our weekly newsletter, "Totem Talk", and find links to other helpful school-related websites. You can also follow us on social media. We are preparing for an extremely busy spring and these resources will be key to staying up to date every step of the way. Have a great 2024!

Forever Brave,

Hector Maestre  
Principal



JANUARY  
2024



## Our Mission Statement

The mission of William R. Boone High School is to promote a safe learning environment with intense focus on student achievement. With the support and involvement of faculty and family, the school community strives to prepare all students to think critically, act responsibly, and perform successfully in a technological and multicultural society.

## Vision

By working together, we will strive to inspire life-long learning and curiosity within and beyond the classroom.

## Beliefs

We believe all students should have a respectful, safe, and nurturing environment.

- We believe in setting high expectations for all students to reach their greatest potential.
- We believe all students should experience a meaningful, rigorous curriculum delivered through strategic instruction.
- We believe students should be challenged and prepared for a changing global society and equipped with 21st century skills.
- We believe that as a staff we should foster a positive, supportive, and collegial working environment.

'Smoke Signals'

January 2024

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Orlando, FL 32806  
Issue 3

## PTSO

Happy New Year Braves!

I hope that each of you had a restful winter break and made some sweet memories with your family and friends. A new year is an opportunity to reflect on the past year and also look forward with anticipation and excitement for all that is ahead!

December always means wrapping up the first semester with some fun traditions! First was the Senior Sunrise and Breakfast. The Class of 2024 gathered on the football field with blankets and sleepy faces to watch the sunrise before heading to the annual pancake breakfast. It would not have been possible without the guidance of Lisa Castro, Senior Class Sponsor, her student leaders (they transformed the cafeteria into a winter wonderland that everyone enjoyed for a few weeks!), and all of the parents and families who donated items and volunteered to serve breakfast to our senior class.

The very next morning, almost 900 Braves were invited to the Honors Breakfast. The PTSO freshman and sophomore activities committees worked closely with administration to serve pancakes, bacon and sausage, fruit, and hot chocolate to all hard-working Braves with a 3.5 or above unweighted cumulative GPA. That is impressive!

Thank you to everyone who donated treats for the hot chocolate bar, fruit, and/or volunteered to serve breakfast and stir (and stir and stir!) hot chocolate. Both mornings were really fun times celebrating our Braves. Santa was on campus for both breakfasts and was happy to pose for photos with those on his nice list, which was everyone. He checked twice! We wrapped up the week with a Holly Jolly Holiday celebration to spread some joy to our Braves who needed a little cheer this season. Thank you to BHSAA for sponsoring lunch from Pig Floyds and the many families and community members who helped us to provide gifts and treats for over 100 Braves this holiday season.

The following week, PTSO's teacher appreciation committee coordinated a delicious Italian lunch to honor our teachers and staff. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and/or provided sweet treats and other items to help make our teachers and staff feel valued and loved. No one deserves the winter break more than the teachers who pour into and support our students every single day. Just before the break, the students in the Law, Criminal Justice, and Finance Magnets (almost 500 students!) were treated to pizza and desserts after school. Thank you to everyone who donated gift cards and desserts as well as those who volunteered at the party. It was a great way to wrap up the first semester!

PTSO is looking ahead with anticipation and excitement for all the things to come in 2024, including the Senior SnowBall, almost 20 spring sports, the Sweetheart Lunch, Bus Driver Appreciation, Braves Run and Green Up Boone, spring break, tons of Senior activities, prom, APexams, and finally GRADUATION!

Stay connected so you won't miss out on any memorable moments by following us on Facebook (Boone Braves PTSO and a Boone Braves page for each class- 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027).

PTSO values and appreciates every single student and adult who is a part of our Brave family – Boone would not be the amazing (busy!) school that it is without you. If you haven't found your place, 2024 is the year to find it! Reach out to us at boonehighschoolbraves@gmail.com and we will help.



continues on next page...

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PTSO is so very thankful for every person who has been a part of our 2023 and we're looking forward to making many new memories with you in 2024!

Forever Brave!

Amy Bhavsar, *PTSO President 2023-24*

## Boone PTSO Scholarship Application

· William R. Boone High School · 1000 E. Kaley Street · Orlando, FL 32806

*Boone PTSO is proud to offer (3) \$500 scholarships to be awarded to Boone graduating seniors. Typed applications are due to Ms. Gurley in College and Career by March 11, 2024! Awarded funds will be administered for post secondary education. In order to be considered for one of these scholarships, students must be PTSO members by March 1, 2024.*

**Applicant Contact Information:** (Please Print) Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST LAST

Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE # ☐ Check here is number is text enabled E-MAIL

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST LAST

Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE # ☐ Check here is number is text enabled E-MAIL

Boone High School will maintain all rights to any ideas and concepts submitted during the application process. If submitting additional pieces of paper along with your application, please include your name and "Boone PTSO Scholarship Application" at the top of each **typed** sheet.

(Please type answers)

What are your plans for continued education after graduation? :

Tell us in 50 words or less how you have been involved with or benefited from the PTSO at Boone High School:

What social events, activities, clubs, organizations, sports, etc. have you participated in while a student at Boone? :

Please **type** a 250 word essay on the following topic:

Reflect on something or someone at Boone High School that impacted you in a significant way. How will this affect or motivate you in the future?

PTSO Use Only:

Grade Level and graduation verification:  
(By Guidance Department)

Signature

Membership Verification:  
(By Membership Chairman)

Signature

Date Processed:



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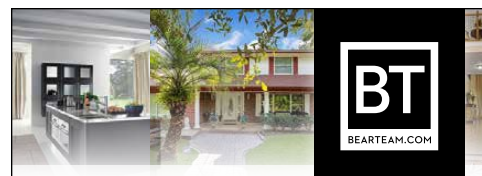
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## Boone Outfitters

The holidays were a little brighter this year for more than 100 Braves thanks to the generosity of our Boone community! Students who were identified by their guidance counselor or teacher to receive some extra joy this year were invited to a Holly Jolly holiday celebration. This included a delicious lunch from Pig Floyds provided by BHSAA as well as a hygiene and treat bag, and large gifts of their choosing. Thank you to all of the Boone families, community members, and teachers/staff for the generous contributions that made this celebration possible. Also a huge thank you to all of the volunteers who made the event such a success. What a JOY!

Looking ahead to 2024, Boone Outfitters will be hosting three Saturday "shopping" days-January 27th, February 24th, and April 14th from 9:00-11:00. These shopping days will be at no cost to Boone students and their families and are open to all Braves regardless of circumstances! We will also be offering shopping times for students for prom attire selection in the

spring for all interested students. If your student would like to visit the closet for shopping during their lunch shift, please email [Camille.layton@ocps.net](mailto:Camille.layton@ocps.net) to schedule a time.

We will wrap up this school year with the graduation of the Class of 2024! We want all of our Braves to look their best as they cross the stage to be recognized for their hard work! If you have a cap, gown, and/or stole in excellent condition and would like to donate it so that another student may wear it, please drop it off at the front desk. Keep your tassel! Those are year-specific and a great keepsake for you.

Our year-round donation needs continue to be new or gently used teen-appropriate clothing- leggings, athletic shorts and shirts, and NEW undergarments in all styles and sizes for men and women. We also accept formal attire and dress shoes. For convenient shopping for NEW items, you may want to use our Amazon wishlist to have the items directly delivered to the school.

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/1G0FXBV2IP9GY/guest-view>

If you would prefer to donate to offset the cost of specific needs/requests, you may do so by submitting a check to the front desk or using the Boone Outfitters link on SchoolPay.com.

Thank you so much for your continued support of Boone Outfitters!

Class of 2024

## Senior Information

**BHS 2024 Senior Dance**

THE SENIOR DANCE WILL BE ON  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH**  
**7:00PM - 9:30PM**  
**CAFETERIA**

**TICKETS ARE \$25.00 AND WILL  
BE ON SALE FROM  
JAN 10TH - JAN 24TH**

Tickets can be purchased on school pay

**BHS 2024 Senior Mural**

Seniors can be a part of the c/o 2024 senior mural by adding their handprint to it for only \$1.00

The senior mural handprints will take place during both lunches in the cafeteria from Jan 22 - Jan 26th

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[WWW.SCHOOLPAY.COM](http://WWW.SCHOOLPAY.COM) DURING THE TICKET SALES WINDOW LISTED ABOVE

Students **MUST** bring a copy of their receipt to the Grad Bash table during lunch to get the permission form and to sign up for a bus

Grad Bash will be on Friday, April 26th at Universal Studios/Islands of Adventure from 5:00pm - 2:00am

See Mrs. Castro or Mrs. Yelensky with questions

TICKETS ARE NONREFUNDABLE

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# Student Services

## College and Career

### Florida Financial Aid Application

The Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) opened up to all seniors on October 1st. <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org> It is one application that includes Bright Futures as well as 15 other state scholarships and grants. All seniors are recommended to complete this application before graduation, even if they do not qualify for Bright Futures.

We encourage students to contact their counselor or Mrs. Gurley [nicole.gurley@ocps.net](mailto:nicole.gurley@ocps.net) if they have questions regarding this application.

### Free Application for Student Aid

The FAFSA is an application to help students receive financial aid from the government and/or college. There is a student portion as well as a parent portion. The opening date was delayed this year, so it is crucial to apply as soon as possible. Make sure your student is checking each of their college's FAFSA priority deadline dates so they will receive the most money from the college.

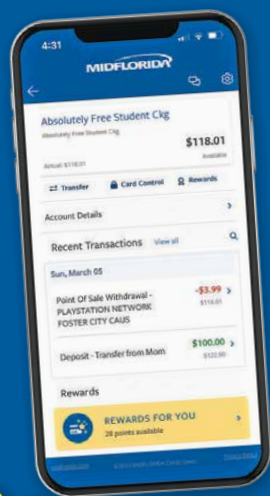
Your student may have created their login (FSA ID) in their English class and a parent will need to create one as well. If you do not have one yet, from a previous student or your own college, go to [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov) to create one. After creation, you will need to complete the FAFSA. For additional help, please email Mrs. Gurley [nicole.gurley@ocps.net](mailto:nicole.gurley@ocps.net)

### College Acceptances

We would love to recognize your 12th grader's college acceptances. Please upload them to <https://tinyurl.com/bhsacceptances> to be added to Student Services.



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## Prom Information



### Date:

April 20, 2024

### Time:

- Check-in begins at 6:00 p.m.
- Doors to the ballroom open at 6:30 p.m.
- Dinner begins promptly at 6:45 p.m. Any student arriving after dinner is served may not receive their food and will not be refunded.
- Late arrival is not permitted. Students not checked in by 7:15 p.m. will not be allowed entrance to the dance. **No Refunds will be given.**
- The dance ends promptly at 10:30 p.m. and rides need to be ready.

### Location/Theme:

The location and theme of prom will be announced with the digital prom invitation for all juniors and seniors. It will be posted to Canvas before ticket sales begin.

### Dress Code:

- The dress code is formal. If you are not sure if your outfit is acceptable, please see any administrator before the dance to confirm you will be allowed in.
- BHS Administration reserves the right to refuse admission or dismiss you from the event if you arrive in unacceptable attire, show up late, or engage in any other behavior deemed appropriate for removal.

Acceptable	Unacceptable
Formal dresses (dress length should stay within the school's dress code; nothing too short)	Midriff open (sides cut out or belly showing)
Suits	Plunging necklines
Spaghetti straps or strapless dresses	Plunging backlines
Dress pants	Anything deemed too revealing
Dress shoes	No hats, flip-flops, sunglasses, or canes are permitted inside the dance
Dress shirt with collar and tie	

### Check-in:

**Check-in begins at 6:00.** Students must present their Boone I.D. and table registration card when they arrive at the dance.

### During the dance:

- Our dancing policy will be in effect. Students will receive a wristband at check-in. If they are dancing inappropriately the wristband will be cut. If they are caught dancing inappropriately again, then they will be asked to leave the dance.
- Behavior should be appropriate. This is a school function. If OCPS rules and regulations have not been followed by the student or the guest of a BHS student, administration **reserves the right to use appropriate disciplinary action set forth by Boone High School and OCPS.**



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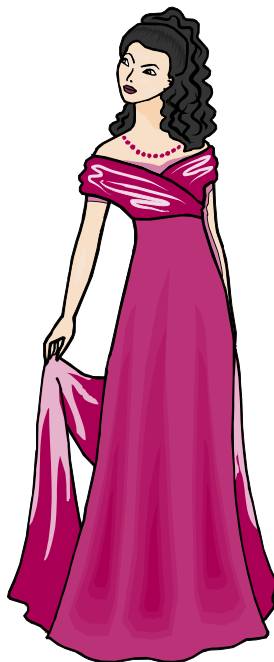


### Guests:

- All guests who are not BHS students must fill out and turn in a BHS dance guest form to purchase a ticket. This form will be released on Canvas closer to ticket sales.
- Guests should be of high school age and must be 20 or younger.
- Should a guest arrive who is not of proper age, that guest will be revoked entry and will not be refunded.
- **Administration reserves the right to remove a student from this event if a student or accompanying person displays inappropriate behavior and no refund will be given.**

### Ticket sales:

- Ticket sales will be held Jan 29- Feb 2 and can only be purchased on SchoolPay. This is the only week tickets will be sold.
- Please note: **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD THE WEEK OF PROM.**



### Steps to purchase a prom ticket:

1. Students check their current GPA/obligations. Current GPA can be found on the last report card and instructions to check obligations are on Canvas Student Body. Move on if **BOTH** are clear.
  2. Print a permission slip form for the Boone student (and guest if wanted) and get an ink parent signature. Permission slips can be picked up in the front office or printed from the Canvas Student Body page.
  3. Print the obligation form and get an ink parent signature. Obligation forms can be picked up from the front office or printed from the Canvas Student Body page. This is the form that must be emailed back if you have a guest attending who is NOT a Boone student.
  4. Pay on School Pay for your ticket and either print the receipt or take a screenshot. If you need to purchase a ticket for a nonBoone student, please make sure you receive an email back confirming they are clear BEFORE purchasing their ticket. Tickets are nonrefundable.
  5. Go to table registration during lunch (Jan 29- Feb 2) and submit the printed obligation form, the printed permission slip, and show proof of the SchoolPay receipt (can be printed or a screenshot). At this time students will pick their table and food choice and receive a table registration card.
- No seats will be held.
  - **NO SEAT CHANGES WILL BE MADE.**
  - Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

**TICKETS ARE NONREFUNDABLE.**


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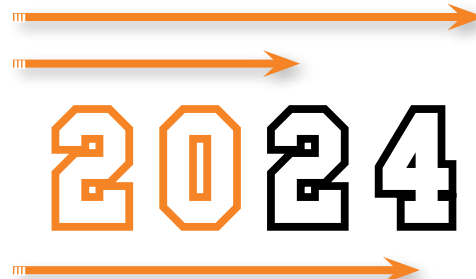
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## William R. Boone High School Athletics

2023-2024

### Spring Sports Coach Contact and Tryout Info

Sport	Head Coach	FHSAA Start Date
Baseball	Tony Darden antonio.darden@ocps.net	January 22nd
Beach Volleyball	Cole Trimble caroline.trimble@ocps.net	February 5th
Girls	Javier Rodriguez parcelplus@aol.com	January 29th
Flag Football	Nick Veith wnveith@gmail.com	January 22nd
Girls	Amanda Matusik amanda.matusik@ocps.net	January 22nd
Lacrosse	Stan Woods stanfordwoods@att.net	January 22nd
Boys	John Richards john@fortgatlin.com	January 15th
Lacrosse	Jerry Williams (B) jerry.williams@ocps.net	January 29th
Girls	Brandon Roush (G) brandon.roush@ocps.net	
Softball	Jack Pflugner jrpflug@icloud.com	February 12th
Volleyball	Michael Martinac michael.martinac@ocps.net	January 8th
Boys	Charles Nassar charles.nassar@ocps.net	January 8th
Water Polo		
Boys & Girls		
Weightlifting		
Boys		

**All athletes must have completed a FHSAA physical and have an ECG on file with BHS in order to participate. Contact Molly Fitzgerald (Athletic Trainer) @ molly.fitzgerald@ocps.net with questions regarding physicals and ECGs. Guidelines on how and where to submit athletic physicals can be found at [www.booneathletics.com](http://www.booneathletics.com)**

For questions about tryouts or preseason conditioning contact the coach listed above or Kevin Demer (Athletic Director) at kevin.demer@ocps.net or (407) 893-7215.

Visit the BHS Athletic website for up-to-date athletic information: [www.booneathletics.com](http://www.booneathletics.com)

### Physical Night

**Physical Night will be in May!** A date will be announced once it is scheduled. Check social media and the Athletics website ([www.booneathletics.com](http://www.booneathletics.com)) for up-to-date information.

Physical Form: [www.tinyurl.com/NEWOCPSPhysical](http://www.tinyurl.com/NEWOCPSPhysical)

### ECGs

ECGs will be offered at physical night! An ECG is required for all athletes, band, dance, and NJROTC members. Only one ECG is required per high school career. Documents must be re-submitted every year in Athletic Clearance.

Who We Play For  
ECG screens: [www.whoweplayfor.org/florida-orange](http://www.whoweplayfor.org/florida-orange)

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Athletic Clearance Website: <https://athleticclearance.fhsaahome.org/>

Questions about physical, ECGs, or Athletic Clearance? Email [molly.fitzgerald@ocps.net](mailto:molly.fitzgerald@ocps.net).

## Academic Champions

The Fall standings have been released for the 2023-24 FHSAA Academic Team Champions awards. Each team must have a combined GPA average of 3.0 or better to qualify for the awards.

Nine of our ten athletic teams qualified this Fall.

Team highlights from the current standings are as follows:

- Girls Cross Country – Led all Boone teams with a 3.785 GPA
- Football – 8th overall in the 4M classification and 2nd in OCPS (3.14 GPA)
- Girls Swimming – 7th overall in the 4A classification (3.701 GPA)
- Girls Volleyball – 4th overall in the 7A classification and 1st in OCPS (3.701 GPA)

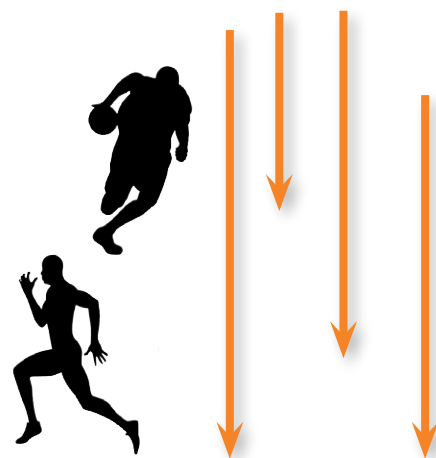


## State Champions

Congratulations to senior Lanie Gutch and junior Arianna Wertheim, who both won 2023 FHSAA State Championship swimming and diving titles.

Lanie won the second diving championship of her career, after winning the title as a freshman and finishing as state runner-up in both her sophomore and junior seasons.

Arianna took home the championship in the 500 free and also placed third overall in the 200 free. Both of her recorded times earned her All-America status in those events.



## Fall All-Metro

Congratulations to the following student-athletes who were selected as 1st Team All-Metro honorees.

### Girls Swimming

Lanie Gutch – Diving  
Arianna Wertheim – 200 Free  
Emma Thompson – Senior Academic Award

### Boys Golf

Nicholas Pisarski – Also named to the Orlando Sentinel All-Area Boys Golf Team

### Football

Isaiah Mizell – Wide Receiver  
Rhys Woodrow – Offensive Line  
Harrison White – Tight End  
Jadon Frick – Defensive Line  
Jack Lynch – Linebacker  
Lagarion Wilson – Defensive Back

### Girls Volleyball

Elle Mottola

### Boys Cross Country

Dylan Cannella  
Brandon McNulty  
Dylan Mauldin

### Girls Cross Country

Taylor Revels  
Layla Sahaydak  
Ebony Herndon  
Sydney Seinfeld

# CONGRATULATIONS

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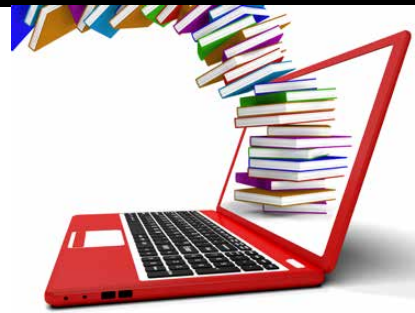


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## Get Connected to Boone!

### Here's how!

- 'Join' us on Facebook: Boone Braves PTSO, Seniors: Boone Braves 2024, Juniors: Boone Braves 2025, Sophomores: Boone Braves 2026 and Freshmen: Boone Braves 2027
- Check out Boone High School's website: <https://boonehs.ocps.net/>
- Sign up for Dr. Maestre's weekly electronic newsletter, 'Totem Talk' on Boone's website: Click on the icon "Join Our Mailing List"
- 'Like' BHS on Facebook at Boone High School (@BooneHighOCPS) and Boone High School Español (@BHSEspanol). Follow BHS on Instagram at Boone HS Braves (@ocps\_boonehs).
- Check out Boone Athletics's website: <https://booneathletics.com>
- 'Join' Boone Braves Athletics (BHSAA) on Facebook and Instagram
- 'Like' the BHS Foundation on Facebook at William R. Boone High School Foundation (@BooneFoundation)
- Don't forget to register to volunteer at [https://www.ocps.net/departments/community\\_resources/\\_a\\_d\\_ditions\\_school\\_volunteers](https://www.ocps.net/departments/community_resources/_a_d_ditions_school_volunteers).
- Please check with coaches and/or club sponsors to access their respective social media pages.



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