
The logo for BHS, consisting of the letters 'B', 'H', and 'S' in a bold, red, sans-serif font, set against a white rectangular background.

BHS

**Elective Choices
& Grade Level
Tracks**

Overview

2023-2024

- Class choice will **CLOSE** on Friday, August 18th. You must select your elective courses and other courses by this date or BHS will place you automatically.

Grade Level Tracks

- Grade level tracks show what a typical student your age would be taking and what kinds of alternatives are available to you.

Electives

- Each student needs to have 2 full elective credits per year. Each elective course is worth 0.5 credits **per semester**. We recommend that of your choices are teacher led electives if you are an on campus student but you **must** choose at least 1 teacher led elective.

Credits Explanation

0.5 credits are awarded for successful completion of a semester long class.

- Successful completion means receiving a score of at least 60% or higher. Note that universities often want to see scores of at least 80% in all classes with scores of 90% and above being the best grade / preferred. Some universities do not accept 60% - 69% grades.

You need 24 credits to graduate from 9th - 12th grade

- Each year from 9th - 12th grade you should earn a total of 6 credits (12 classes a year worth 0.5 credits each). Universities look at your 9th - 12th grade marks. This does not apply to 7th and 8th graders.

Categories

- There are a specific number of credits you need in different categories, which is explained on the following slide.

American Grading Scale

- **A** - 90% - 100% - 4.0 GPA
 - This is the highest grade.
- **B** - 80% - 89% - 3.0 GPA
- **C** - 70% - 79% - 2.0 GPA
- **D** - 60% - 69% - 1.0 GPA
 - Although not failing, this grade is usually frowned upon by universities.
- **F** - 59% or below
 - This is a failing grade.
 - You do not receive credit for an F and must repeat the course.

Note:

The letter grade you get alters your overall grade point average.

American Grading Scale: Grade Point Average (GPA)

What is the GPA scale?

- Your Grade Point Average (GPA) is the sum of all your course grades throughout your high school career, and it is what universities look at for applications.
- It is marked out of a possible of 4.0 points.
- For example, a 4.0 GPA would mean that you were a straight A student for your entire high school career and a 3.0 GPA would mean that you achieved on average B grades (more or less).

Weighted vs Unweighted

- Because AP courses are more rigorous and difficult than regular courses, on a weighted GPA scale they are awarded the possibility of a 5.0 points. This means that with AP courses you have the ability to have a weighted 4.17 GPA, for example.
- Unweighted GPA's measure AP courses on a scale of a possible 4.0 points.

Credit Categories Overview:

All students must have the following by graduation

CORE CREDITS

4 Language Arts Credits:

- REQUIRED: Language Arts 9; 10; 11; 12
- OR an AP Literature course one of the years.

4 Mathematics Credits:

- REQUIRED: Algebra 1; Geometry.
- You choose 2 additional Math credits.

3 Science Credits

- REQUIRED: Biology
- You choose 2 additional Science credits.

4 Social Studies Credits

- REQUIRED: Geography; World History; US History; American Government/Economics.

ELECTIVE CREDITS

1 Fine Arts Credit

- You choose Art, Music, Theatre, or another equivalent arts course.

1 Physical Education or Health

- You choose Physical Education OR Health
- Competitive Student Athletes can fulfill the Physical Education requirement with a certain number of hours of training per week.

7 Elective Credits

- You choose - can also include AP courses and courses in any other discipline. You cannot overlap or “double dip” elective credits with other categories.

Electives: Teacher-Led, Self-Led, Independent Study

Types of Electives

Teacher Led

Regular Daily Classes with other students - teacher keeps you on track.

Incorporated into your daily schedule. A class you must attend.

Self-Led

Independently following the platform. You must keep track of all your work yourself.

Must be VERY self-motivated and organized with time. Must check in with the platform daily.

Independent Study

You choose something specific to study (anything).
Examples: Sports
Psychology, Sewing, Social Media Impact on teens, etc.

You decide what the 7 units and end project will be. Your homeroom teacher grades your work and does a weekly check in. You present your work at the end of the semester.

A note on electives:

If we do not have enough interest in a **teacher-led elective** we will be **unable** to offer the elective as a teacher-led course.

This is why we are asking you to choose 5 electives you are interested in taking and we will do our best to make sure that you get your first choices.

Alternatively, if there **is** enough interest in a **self-led** elective, we will do our best to try and open it as a teacher-led elective.



Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

About:

- AP courses give high school students the opportunity to tackle college-level work, with the option to take the College Board AP Exam in May to earn US college credit.
- AP courses are known to be rigorous and fast-paced, and are therefore weighted higher than regular courses.

Why take an AP Course?

- On the standard grading scale, measured out of a 4.0 grade point average (GPA), AP classes earn the possibility of a 5.0. This means your weighted GPA can drastically improve by taking AP courses

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

- Some universities and colleges may require prospective students to have taken a certain number of AP courses in high school or to have achieved a certain score on AP exams in order to attend. It is important to start thinking about this in the beginning of your high school career.
- Even if your university doesn't require AP courses, college admissions officers look favorably at students that have taken on these more challenging curriculums.

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

Who can take AP courses?

- The ability to take AP courses are open to **all** high school students who feel they can take on the challenge of this coursework. All AP courses have prerequisites but you do have the ability to bypass this with approval.
- It is recommended to reflect and consult with your teachers on what courses will be best for you before taking on the challenge.
- Even if you're not ready to take an AP course this year, you could for example take an extra math class in an earlier year to speed up your math track to get to AP courses later in your high school career.

AP Exams

- AP Exams are offered at the end of each AP course, typically in May.
- They are standardized tests taken by every student enrolled in the course worldwide. They are given by the US College Board.
- They are scored between 1 to 5, with '3' earning a passing grade and '4' or '5' generally being the score needed to earn college credit.

BHS

Teacher Led Electives

- Theatre
 - Psychology
 - Art
 - Sociology
 - Journalism
 - Health
 - Music (after school for credit)
 - Algebra 2 (to be taken in the same year as Geometry for advanced Math students - see Slide 19)
 - Spanish 1
 - Spanish 2
 - Spanish 3
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Self Led Electives

See list [here](#)

Option for INDEPENDENT STUDY
(see Slide 7)



Teacher Led AP Courses

- AP Calculus AB
- AP Statistics
- AP English Literature & Composition
- AP Spanish Language and Culture
- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Psychology

Self Led AP Courses

- AP Calculus BC
- AP Computer Science*
- AP English Language & Composition
- AP European History
- AP Physics
- AP US Government & Politics
- AP US History
- AP World History
- AP Seminar
- AP Research

**If enough students are interested in AP Computer Science there is a possibility it will become a Teacher Led AP Course.*

A note on Self Led AP Courses:

- *There are multiple online resources available to take self-led AP Classes, but based on previous students' experiences, they generally do not recommend taking self-led AP courses. That being said, some students were successful and received scores of 4 or higher after taking a self-led course. These students were INCREDIBLY self motivated and kept a strict study schedule.*
 - *AP Courses are intended to prepare students for college and more importantly, the AP Exams that are dispersed at the end of the year. It is usually less likely that high school students receive an admirable score if they take AP classes in this manner, which is why it is usually not advised. However, there have been students who have scored a 4 on AP courses that they took independently at BHS. These students are typically self motivated at an extremely high level. If your student is considering taking an AP class online, they are conscious of the discipline and self-motivation required to complete the course independently.*
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Grade Level Tracks

The following slides will show you what the typical track for your grade level is in core classes. It will then show you alternative classes you can take. Find your 2023-2024 grade level and decide which courses will be right for you.

7th Grade Track

	7th Grade Track Level Course	Alternatives
Math	Math 7	Pre-Algebra <i>Prerequisite:</i> Math 7 OR approval from Math and Science Director
Science	Science 7	None
Language Arts	Language Arts 7	None
History	Social Studies 7	None
Electives	Study Skills and Character Development (strengthening Executive Functioning Skills) One Additional Elective	Must choose 1 teacher led elective Recommended Teacher Led Elective: Spanish 1, 2 or 3 <i>Prerequisite for Spanish 2:</i> Spanish 1 OR approval <i>Prerequisite for Spanish 3:</i> Spanish 2 OR approval

8th Grade Track

	8th Grade Track Level Course	Alternatives
Math	Pre-Algebra	Algebra 1 <i>Prerequisite:</i> Pre-Algebra
Science	Marine Science & Renewable Energy	None
Language Arts	Language Arts 8	None
History	Social Studies 8	None
Electives	Study Skills and Character Development (strengthening Executive Functioning Skills) One Additional Elective	Must choose 1 teacher led elective Recommended Teacher Led Elective: Spanish 1, 2 or 3 <i>Prerequisite for Spanish 2:</i> Spanish 1 OR approval <i>Prerequisite for Spanish 3:</i> Spanish 2 OR approval

9th Grade (Freshman)

	9th Grade Track Level Course	Alternatives
Math	Algebra 1	Geometry <u>Prerequisite:</u> Algebra 1 OR approval from Math and Science Director
Science	Biology	None
Language Arts	Language Arts 9	None
History	World Geography	None
Electives	Must Choose 2 Electives - we recommend that both elective choices should be teacher led, but at least one must be teacher led for on campus students Recommended Teacher Led Elective: Spanish 1, 2, 3 or AP Spanish <u>Prerequisite for Spanish 2:</u> Spanish 1 OR approval <u>Prerequisite for Spanish 3:</u> Spanish 2 OR approval <u>Prerequisite for AP Spanish:</u> Spanish 1, 2 AND 3 OR approval	

10th Grade (Sophomores)

	10th Grade Track Level Course	Alternatives	*You can take Algebra 2 as an extra class to speed up your Math track to get to AP courses later in your high school career. You can also take only Algebra 2 if you have already taken Geometry in the previous year.		
Math	Geometry	Algebra 2 * (as an EXTRA Math Class) <u>Prerequisite:</u> Algebra 1	Pre-Calculus <u>Prerequisite:</u> Algebra 2	AP Calculus <u>Prerequisite:</u> Pre-Calculus OR approval from Math and Science Director	AP Statistics <u>Prerequisite:</u> Algebra 2 OR approval from Math and Science Director
Science	Biology	Chemistry <u>Prerequisite:</u> Biology	AP Biology <u>Prerequisite:</u> Biology OR approval from Math and Science Director		
Language Arts	Language Arts 10	AP English Literature and Composition <u>Prerequisite:</u> Approval from School Director			
History	World History	None			
Electives	<p>Must Choose 2 Electives - we recommend that both elective choices should be teacher led, but at least one must be teacher led for on campus students</p> <p>Recommended Teacher Led Elective: Spanish 1, 2, 3 or AP Spanish</p> <p><u>Prerequisite for Spanish 2:</u> Spanish 1 OR approval</p> <p><u>Prerequisite for Spanish 3:</u> Spanish 2 OR approval</p> <p><u>Prerequisite for AP Spanish:</u> Spanish 1, 2 AND 3 OR approval</p>				

11th Grade (Juniors)

	11th Grade Track Level Course	Alternatives		
Math	Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus <u>Prerequisite:</u> Algebra 2	AP Calculus <u>Prerequisite:</u> Pre-Calculus OR approval from Math and Science Director	AP Statistics <u>Prerequisite:</u> Pre-Calculus OR approval from Math and Science Director
Science	Chemistry	Physics <u>Prerequisite:</u> Algebra 2 OR approval from Math and Science Director		AP Biology <u>Prerequisite:</u> Biology OR approval from Math and Science Director
Language Arts	Language Arts 11	AP English Literature and Composition <u>Prerequisite:</u> Approval from School Director		
History	United States History	None		
Electives	Must Choose 2 Electives - we recommend that both elective choices should be teacher led, but at least one must be teacher led for on campus students Recommended Teacher Led Elective: Spanish 1, 2, 3 or AP Spanish <u>Prerequisite for Spanish 2:</u> Spanish 1 OR approval <u>Prerequisite for Spanish 3:</u> Spanish 2 OR approval <u>Prerequisite for AP Spanish:</u> Spanish 1, 2 AND 3 OR approval			

12th Grade (Seniors)

	12th Grade Track Level Course	Alternatives		
Math	Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus <i>Prerequisite:</i> Pre-Calculus OR approval from Math and Science Director	AP Statistics <i>Prerequisite:</i> Pre-Calculus OR approval from Math and Science Director	
Science	Physics	AP Biology <i>Prerequisite:</i> Biology OR approval from Math and Science Director	AP Chemistry <i>Prerequisite:</i> Chemistry OR approval from Math and Science Director	AP Physics (self-led) <i>Prerequisite:</i> Physics OR approval from Math and Science Director
Language Arts	Language Arts 12	AP English Literature and Composition <i>Prerequisite:</i> Approval from School Director		
History	US Government & Economics		None	
Electives	Must Choose 2 Electives - we recommend that both elective choices should be teacher led, but at least one must be teacher led for on campus students Recommended Teacher Led Elective: Spanish 1, 2, 3 or AP Spanish <i>Prerequisite for Spanish 2:</i> Spanish 1 OR approval <i>Prerequisite for Spanish 3:</i> Spanish 2 OR approval <i>Prerequisite for AP Spanish:</i> Spanish 1, 2 AND 3 OR approval			



**You will receive your
schedule before school
starts.**

See you September 4th

GO LOBOS!
