



# BERKLEY SCHOOLS

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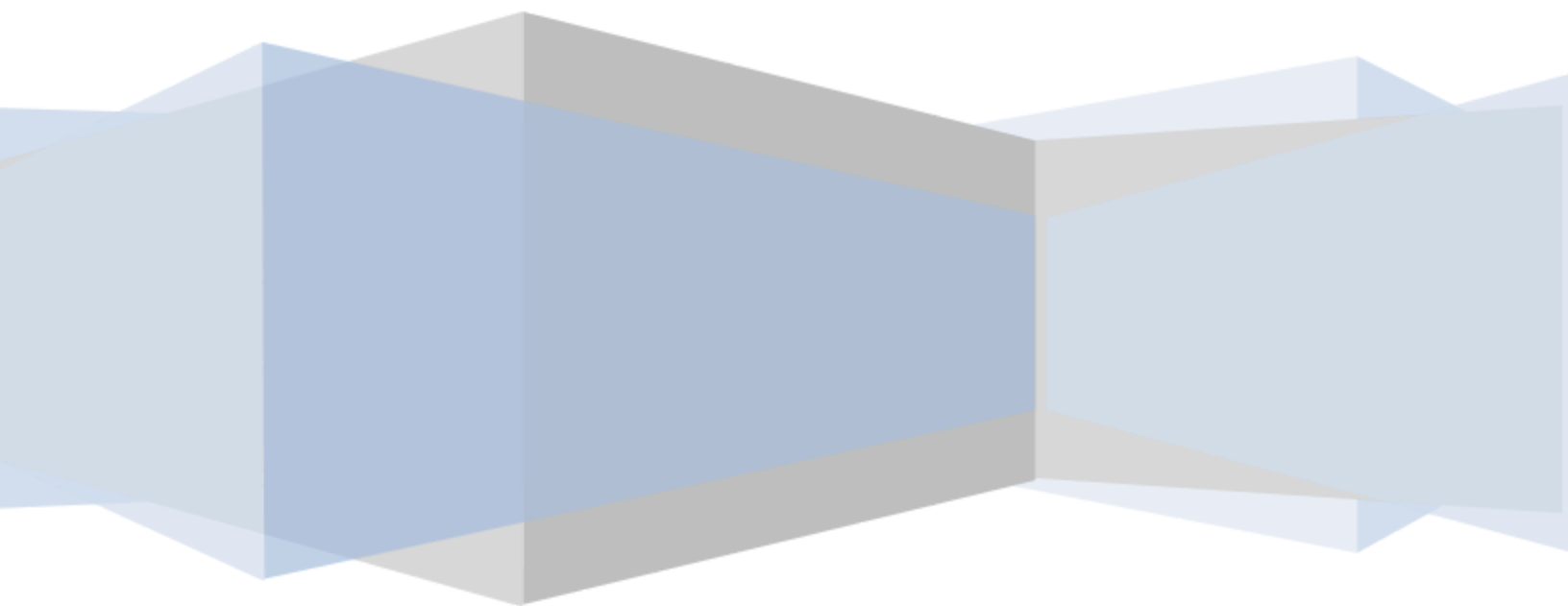
BERKLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
[WWW.BERKLEYSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.BERKLEYSCHOOLS.ORG)

## 9th Grade

# CURRICULUM GUIDE

Course Descriptions & Offerings

**Berkley High School**



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For more course information, visit

<https://www.berkleyschools.org/schools/berkley-high/counseling/scheduling-and-courses/>

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Graduation Requirements	4
Weighted Course Description	5
Course Descriptions	6
English & Language Arts	6
Mathematics	9
Science	11
Social Studies	11
World Languages	12
Physical Education & Health	14
Fine & Visual Arts	15
Fine & Performing Arts (Music)	18
Family & Consumer Science	22
Industrial Technology	23
Business & Marketing	23
Other Elective Options	24
Special Education	24
English as a Second Language	27

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

## Michigan Merit Curriculum

### Berkley Board of Education Approved Graduation Requirements

<b>English</b>	<b>4.0 Credits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English 9</li> <li>English 10</li> <li>English 11</li> <li>English 12</li> </ul>
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>4.0 Credits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra 1</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>Algebra 2</li> <li>Senior-Year Math</li> </ul>
<b>Science</b>	<b>3.0 Credits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See <a href="#">Science Requirement Updates</a></li> </ul>
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>3.0 Credits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. History w/ Geography</li> <li>Economics (.5) / Government (.5)</li> <li>World History w/ Geography</li> </ul>
<b>World Language</b>	<b>2.0 Credits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 credits of the same world language</li> </ul>
<b>Visual, Applied, or Performing Arts</b>	<b>1.0 Credit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visual, Performing, Applied Arts               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online Learning Experience (<i>earned in Health</i>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>1.0 Credit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical Education (.5)</li> <li>Health and Wellness (.5)</li> </ul>
<b>Electives</b>	<b>6-8 Credits</b>
<b>22 Credits (<u>minimum</u>) to graduate</b> ( <i>up to 24 Credits can be earned in 4 years</i> )	

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# Weighted Course Description

Weighted courses are calculated on a 5.0 GPA scale instead of a 4.0 scale. This allows students to take more challenging courses without the risk of their GPA dropping if they struggle to do as well as they would in a non-weighted course. Only the GPA value is adjusted, not the letter grade; the letter grade in weighted courses is still based on the percentage earned in the class. Weighted courses also allow the possibility of earning a GPA above a 4.0. For example, the GPA of a typical 9th grade schedule compared to a schedule that includes Advanced Earth & Space (a weighted course) would look like this:

Non-weighted Course Schedule	Grade	Weighted Course Schedule	Grade
English 9	A	English 9	A
U.S. History	A	U.S. History	A
Algebra I	A	Algebra I	A
Biology	A	<i>*Advanced Earth &amp; Space</i>	A
Health	A	Health	A
Spanish 1	A	Spanish 1	A
GPA	4.0	GPA	4.167

## Non-weighted vs. Weighted GPA Scales

Letter Grade	Non-weighted GPA Value	Weighted GPA Value
A	4.0	5.0
B	3.0	4.0
C	2.0	3.0
D	1.0	2.0
E	0	0

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# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## English & Language Arts

### Honors English 9

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9

**Prerequisite:** None

Honors English 9 offers students an opportunity to develop the skills of textual analysis and academic writing at an accelerated pace. The first semester, an extended examination of heroes and heroism, includes an analysis of the summer reading book, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, *Of Mice and Men*, selections from *The Odyssey*, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, in addition to supplemental texts and critical essays. During this time students will develop techniques for intensive textual analysis, write a multi-paragraph analysis essay with a single overall claim as well as several claim-driven, single paragraph analyses, and practice using a number of sentence patterns to address common grammar errors and increase the variety of their own prose. Second semester's first unit, on argument and persuasion, will build upon issues raised during the first semester. During the unit, students will gather information from nonfiction texts and construct a research-based argumentative essay. The next unit, which centers on *Lord of the Flies*, invites students to critically consider the forces that bring civil societies together and those that tear them apart. Sustained work tracking themes and symbols in the novel will be paired with research into historical events from the middle of the 20th Century as well as our contemporary political environment, all of which leads students to producing a comparison / contrast essay. A brief unit on poetry lays the groundwork for an analysis of *Romeo and Juliet*, during which students will listen to a BBC production of the play and examine film versions of various scenes. In addition to these units, the second semester offers students practice developing reading and research skills and strategies for correctly using pronouns. It's a busy year, but the pace and complexity of the coursework is designed to give students a space to make significant growth as thinkers and writers.

### English 9

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9

**Prerequisite:** None

English 9 is an introductory literature and composition course for freshmen at BHS. Students discover, practice, and eventually master the literacy skills necessary for their success. The first semester, an examination of heroes and heroism, includes an analysis of a self-selected summer reading book, short stories, selections from *The Odyssey*, and *Of Mice and Men*. During this time students will gain a better understanding of story form, characterization, genre conventions, and figurative language. They will develop techniques for textual analysis, write a multi-paragraph analysis essay with a single overall claim, and practice using a number of sentence patterns to address common grammar errors and increase the variety of their own prose.

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Second semester examines the forces that bring civil societies together and those that tear them apart. Starting with *Lord of the Flies*, students identify themes and symbols and connect them to historical events. This work leads students to produce a comparison / contrast essay. In the nonfiction unit that follows, students continue to consider the kind of society they would most like to construct, this time by exploring modern-day issues related to media bias, propaganda, and persuasion. Research will lead to students composing a claim-driven, research-based persuasive essay. Finally, a brief introductory poetry unit provides a framework for understanding and appreciating *Romeo and Juliet*, during which students will listen to a BBC production of the play, examine film versions of various scenes, and perform key scenes with their classmates. In addition to these units, the second semester offers students practice developing reading and research skills and strategies for correctly using pronouns.

## **Writing for Publication (School Newspaper, *The Spectator*)**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 10 -12

**Prerequisite:** Application

Journalism is a course that is taken for the full year as it works to help students learn to write for publication. The course will include analysis of mass communication; basic skills needed to gather news and write news stories; in-depth reporting and feature story writing; and production and financial aspects of school newspaper publication. Students who take this course will be responsible for the monthly production of the school newspaper, *The Spectator*. It is the function of *The Spectator* to give a full account of current ideas, events and problems affecting Berkley High School; to give an account of the school's events in context that gives them meaning; to give a representative picture of the constituent groups that make up the school; to be a forum for the exchange of comment and criticism on current issues; to clarify the high school's goals and values; and to be a pleasure medium.

## **Yearbook (*Bear Tracks*)**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Application

Yearbook is a full year course where the students are responsible for publishing the high school's annual *Bear Tracks*. It is the function of *Bear Tracks* to give a full account of current ideas and events of the school year, to give a truthful account of the school's events in context that gives them meaning, to give a representative picture of the constituent groups that make up the school, to clarify the high school's goals and values, and to be a pleasure medium. Staff members will experience all production and financial aspects of the school's annual publication. The course will include analysis of mass communication, skills needed to gather news for in- depth, feature and news story writing, knowledge of design, photography and the and the financial aspects of school annual publication including selling yearbooks and the soliciting of advertisements. Students must be able to work independently as well as in a group. This course demands responsibility, cooperation, and a willingness to learn. We create, celebrate and laugh!

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## **Intro to Podcasting (School Podcast, BearPod)**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

The course will provide the basics of podcasting at the high school level, including introduction to the audio format, basic editing skills, basics of episode production (writing episode descriptions, crafting episode titles), basics of episode promotion (use of social media, use of Canva), basics of writing interview questions, writing scripts, and reflecting on weaknesses at the end of each production cycle.

## **\*\*Poetry**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-10

Poetry is a one-semester elective open to grades 9-10 which consists of reading and writing poetry, listening to and performing poetry, and consuming and producing projects about poets and poetry. Utilizing a collaborative workshop format, students will explore poetry from a variety of time periods, geographic locations, and cultural backgrounds with an emphasis on reading living poets. Common and specialized poetic forms, as well as how figurative language can elevate written and verbal expression will be studied. Ultimately, students will be encouraged to tap into their creativity, write poems weekly, and publish/perform their best work.



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# Mathematics

## Algebra 1

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9

Algebra 1 is an introductory high school mathematics course, which investigates the elementary functions of mathematics. Students learn to use substitution with variables, solve and graph linear equations and inequalities, and write linear equations from word models. Students are expected to know basic mathematical operations, including those involving the expression of opposites and fractions. Students solve problems from various fields of application. The course also has topics that include quadratic equations, linear systems of equations and factoring, and exponential functions.

## Geometry

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-10

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Algebra 8 or Algebra I

Geometry is a college preparatory course that consists of an in-depth study of points, lines, planes, and other special relationships. Topics covered include the following: angle relationships, coordinate geometry, figure transformations, measurement, similarity, trigonometric relationships, and formal proof

writing. Work with proof writing follows a carefully sequenced development of the logical and conceptual precursor to proof. Geometry integrates standard approaches, with an application of algebra.

## Algebra 2

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Geometry

This course builds upon the concepts taught in Algebra I and geometry while adding new concepts to the students' repertoire of mathematics. Instruction will focus on strengthening understanding of linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, rational and trigonometric functions, data analysis, sequences and series, and conic sections. The graphing calculator will be used as an integral teaching tool.

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## Probability and Statistics - Semester 1

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Algebra 2 (with B or lower recommended)

This course is the equivalent of an introductory elementary college Statistics course required by many non-mathematical majors (i.e., social science, business, health, science and engineering). Examples of the use and abuse of statistics in these fields and in politics and advertising will be used to foster critical thinking about research design. Activity-based learning will be used to demonstrate how unbiased data can be collected and dramatically presented to reveal patterns.

## Trigonometry - Semester 2

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Algebra 2 (with B or lower recommended)

Trigonometry is a college preparatory course. Topics covered include trigonometric functions and their graphs, identities and equations, solving right and oblique triangles, circular, inverse, exponential and logarithmic functions, vectors, polar and parametric equations and graphs.

## Pre-Calculus

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Algebra 2 (with a B+ or better recommended) or completion of Trigonometry

This course provides preparation for college courses in mathematics. Topics covered include sequence and series, polynomial functions, logarithmic and exponential functions, as well as continued studies of conic sections and graphing techniques. Trigonometric subjects covered include circular functions and their graphs, identities and equations, solving right and oblique triangles.

## Computer Science Discoveries

**Credits:** 0.5

**Grade Level:** 9-10

**Prerequisite:** None

This is an introductory level course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer sciences as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving and fun. This course is a math elective and does not replace other math requirements.

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# Science

## Biology of the Living Earth

**Credit:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** 8<sup>th</sup> grade science

Biology is the study of living things. In this course, students will learn the scientific principles, concepts, and methodology necessary to understand the interrelationships found in the biosphere. This course will also investigate the coevolution of Earth's systems and how Earth's systems have shaped life. They will acquire the necessary techniques for identifying, analyzing, and providing alternative solutions to biological issues, both human-made and natural.

# Social Studies

## United States History & Geography

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9

**Prerequisite:** None

This **required** two-semester course introduces students to the history of the United States as a nation as it emerges from Reconstruction to present day. The course divides the twentieth century into eras: Growth of an industrial and urban America, becoming a world power, progressivism and reform, the crisis of capitalism, WWII, the Cold War, Civil Rights and post WWII America. Students learn to place major events of the century in a timeline and to analyze their causes and effects. Interpreting primary and secondary sources, they explore time and place in the twentieth century. Within their historical study of twentieth century America, students deepen their understanding of major geographical themes, basic economic concepts, and significant changes in American government.

## Positive Psychology

**Credits:** 0.5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

Positive Psychology is the scientific study of human strengths and virtues. It uses psychological theory, scientific research and evidence-based interventions to understand and improve human well-being. This course examines a variety of psychological concepts that fall under the broad umbrella of Positive Psychology: gratitude, mindfulness, growth mindset, and grit. Throughout this course, students will engage in learning the science of Positive Psychology and how to increase their own well-being using research-based interventions.

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# World Languages

## Spanish 1

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

In Spanish 1, the student begins to develop the four linguistic skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Culture is interwoven throughout the units. The student will compare and make connections between his/her culture and the Hispanic world and community.

## Spanish 2

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Spanish 1

In Spanish 2, the student will be reacquainted with skills learned in Spanish 1. The student will continue to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing, as well as increase his/her awareness of the Hispanic world and culture.

## Spanish 3

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Spanish 2

In Spanish 3, the student will improve reading comprehension, writing and communication skills through review and reinforcement of grammar and vocabulary. In addition, the student will further their knowledge of grammatical concepts and advanced vocabulary. To improve comprehension skills, selected readings will be used in class, as well.

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## **French 1**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

In French 1, the student begins to develop the four linguistic skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Culture is interwoven throughout the chapters. The student will compare and make connections between his/her culture and the francophone world.

## **French 2**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of French 1

In French 2, the student will be reacquainted with skills learned in French 1. The student will continue to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing, as well as increasing awareness of the francophone world to further understanding of culture.

## **French 3**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of French 2

In French 3, the student will improve reading, comprehension, writing and communication skills through review and reinforcement of grammar and vocabulary. In addition, the student will further his/her knowledge of grammatical concepts and advanced vocabulary. The student will read selected readings to increase comprehension skills and learn more about culture.

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# Physical Education & Health

## Physical Education Foundations

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9

**Prerequisite:** None

This required physical education course for 9<sup>th</sup> graders equips students to apply the skills associated with engaging in lifelong activities. In addition, this course will provide students with the basic knowledge and skill level needed to participate in a variety of movement activities. The specific skills have been carefully designed to stimulate interest in a wider variety of physical activities.

## Health & Wellness

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

As required by the State of Michigan, students will acquire health information in ways that promote personal, family, and community health. Topics to be covered include safety, personal health and wellness, alcohol, tobacco, and other abused drugs, nutrition, and reproductive health. Students will practice obtaining good information on health related topics, and apply the information to their personal health.

## LINK PE

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

This course is designed to provide an inclusive and adaptive physical education environment for students with diverse learning needs and abilities. The curriculum promotes physical activity, health, and wellness through modified sports, games, and fitness activities that cater to all students, regardless of their physical or cognitive abilities. Students will develop motor skills, coordination, and teamwork, while also focusing on building self-confidence, communication skills, and social interaction. The course emphasizes creating an accessible and supportive atmosphere where students can thrive, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to engage, succeed, and enjoy physical activity. Special attention is given to individualized instruction, assistive technologies, and the use of peer support to enhance participation and achievement.

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# Fine & Visual Arts

## Introduction to Ceramics

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

The student will learn basic clay techniques and studio procedures. Class assignments will include pinch, coil, and slab hand-building techniques. The technique of decorating green ware surfaces will be explored using the basic methods of carving, incising, stamping, smoothing, addition and subtraction of clay. Glaze application will be explored, as well as under glazing, staining, dipping, and pouring. An introduction to kilns and a variety of firing techniques will be included.

## Advanced Ceramics

**Credit:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Intro to Ceramics (passed with C or better)

The student will use skills, techniques and processes developed in Introduction to Ceramics to create advanced project work in both pottery and sculpture. At least one project will include working with mixed media while expanding the students' understanding of how to incorporate other sculptural materials into their ceramic work. Wheel throwing will be introduced as well as advanced techniques of glazing, surface decoration and glaze formulation.

## Introduction to Digital Art

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

This introductory course, a prerequisite to Digital Art is for students interested in learning the digital canvas. This course concentrates on creative work in multimedia while exploring the power and creative potential of digital software/hardware tools. Students will learn the foundational methods of design,

visual communication and fundamentals of the graphic arts. They will be introduced to digital art software via the Adobe Creative Suite, as well as an introduction to digital photo-editing concepts. Professional practices will be introduced in creating preliminary sketches, concepts, and designs using a digital interface. Students will create a wide variety of new media compositions.

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## Advanced Digital Art

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Introduction to Digital Art (passed with C or better)

Digital Art is an extension of the artist canvas and a form of visual communication which clarifies an idea, stirs your interest, or catches your eye. Digital produced art is everywhere – on TV, on walls, on websites, on shirts, in mailboxes, in boxed sets, paper products, food packaging, in books, on bikes, skateboards, and snowboards. Digital Art will concentrate on two-dimensional design principles for visual communication –the design used in Illustration, Print & Advertising. Students will explore digital canvas to create a variety of compositions investigating typography, symbols, logos, and illustration presenting commercial design utilizing computer graphic software.

## Introduction to Drawing & Painting

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9 -12

**Prerequisite:** None

This course explores drawing through a variety of drawing and painting media, stressing basic visual awareness and technical command on a two-dimensional surface. Students will develop further their individual art skills through both experimental and traditional drawing techniques. Students will explore drawing as a way of seeing as well as a means for asking questions, expressing ideas, interpreting concepts, and developing a personal style. Students will explore a variety of drawing mediums including but not limited to; colored pencil, charcoal, pastels, conte crayon, marker, ink, and various paint mediums. *\* This course may be re-elected for additional credit.*

## Advanced Drawing & Painting

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Intro to Drawing and Painting (passed with a C or better)

This is a studio course for students that builds on skills acquired in Drawing and Painting. Students will explore the characteristics of various paint mediums and methods. Students will explore realistic, abstract, and non-objective concepts with attention being given to color theory, composition principles, and technical control. Advanced students are given the opportunity to further skills by expanding their comprehension of media potential while being confronted with problems of increasing complexity. Entry into regional and national competitions is encouraged. *\*This course may be re-elected for additional credit.*



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## **Introduction to Jewelry & Metals**

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

This is a course for students who are interested in the study of Jewelry Making and Metal Arts. Students will explore connections to previously learned concepts of the principles and elements of design. Course instruction will emphasize basic design theory through a 2D/3D forum as it relates to engineering and pattern making processes; rendering designs and transposing them into working prototype models for finished metal work. Students will be introduced to a variety of jewelry making tools and metal fabrication techniques involved with “cold” and “heat” fabrication processes and metal finishing.

## **Advanced Jewelry & Metals**

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9 -12

**Prerequisite:** Introduction to Jewelry & Metals – **Passed with a C or better**

This course is designed for the self-directed student who will explore connections to previously learned design concepts related to form and function of jewelry. Students will advance and refine their personal skill level in jewelry fabrication acquired in Intro to Jewelry and Metals. Course instruction will include guidance through assigned projects and independent project work assisting students through the engineering and pattern making processes for finished metal work. Professional practices will be stressed in creating preliminary sketches, concepts and designs. Students will continue to focus on personal advancement with their technical skill and craftsmanship related to product output.

## **LINK Art**

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

This course is designed to provide an inclusive and adaptive art experience for students with diverse abilities, fostering creativity, self-expression, and emotional growth. The curriculum encourages students to explore various artistic techniques and mediums, including painting, drawing, sculpture, and mixed media, while tailoring activities to meet individual needs. Through hands-on projects, students will develop fine motor skills, problem-solving abilities, and confidence in their artistic talents.

The course promotes a supportive, non-judgmental environment where all students can engage in the creative process at their own pace and comfort level.

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# Fine & Performing Arts - Music

## Concert Band

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9 – 12

**Prerequisite:** Middle School Band

Concert Band is offered both semesters of the school year. The ensemble is offered first semester as an alternative to the marching band, and as a secondary band during the second semester. Students will perform at concerts during both semesters and are expected to master a variety of rudimentary musical skills. Band students may also use this class to learn a secondary instrument. The course is designed to strengthen and develop student technique in the areas of rhythm, tone, production, ensemble performance, musical style, and basic musical knowledge. Students will use a variety of materials provided by the teacher.

## Marching Band - Semester 1

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Middle School Band and Summer Band Camp

This is a first semester class only. All students are expected to attend an additional “at school” camp before the beginning of school in August. The band performs at all home football games and various parades during the school year. The Marching Band is open to all band students willing to meet the course requirements.

## Wind Symphony - Semester 2

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Audition

Students will perform at concerts during both semesters and are expected to master a variety of rudimentary musical skills. Band students may also use this class to learn a secondary instrument. The course is designed to strengthen and develop student technique in the areas of rhythm, tone, production, ensemble performance, musical style, and basic musical knowledge. Students will use a variety of materials provided by the teacher.

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## **Symphonic Band - Semester 2**

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Audition

This is a second semester class, open by audition only. This band will perform the highest quality literature available, appropriate to the high school level. Members must also participate in the annual MSBOA Band Festival with the rest of the ensemble. The course is designed to advance student technique in the area of rhythm, tone production, ensemble performance, musical style and musical knowledge. Students will use a variety of materials provided by the teacher. Students in this class should have previously mastered the basics of the areas listed above.

## **Jazz Band (*Class meets outside of school day*)**

**Credits:** 0.5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Middle School Band

Jazz Band is a class that meets outside of the school day. Students study a variety of music within the heading of “jazz” including swing, Latin, funk, pop, and rock styles. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about and perform improvised solos.

## **Sinfonia Orchestra**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9

**Prerequisite:** Middle School Orchestra

Sinfonia Orchestra is offered both semesters of the year to students at a more basic level of skill. Students will be expected to learn and master a variety of basic general music principles as well as more specific string skills. The course is designed to strengthen rhythm, tone quality, ensemble skills, different music styles, shifting, and vibrato. The students will perform at concerts during both semesters and festival during the second semester.

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## **\*\*Next Gen Music**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

In *Next-Gen Music*, students will explore the dynamic intersection of traditional instruments—guitar, bass, and piano—with cutting-edge music technology to craft original compositions that resonate with modern and future music trends. This student-centered, self-directed course empowers learners to take charge of their musical journey, blending hands-on instrumental practice with the vast potential of digital audio workstations (DAWs) and electronic production tools.

By the end of the course, students will have produced original tracks, fine-tuned their technical abilities, and gained confidence in their ability to navigate both traditional and modern musical landscapes.

This course is ideal for students with a basic knowledge of at least one instrument and a passion for integrating music and technology to create innovative, genre-blurring sounds. Whether you're pursuing a career in music production or simply looking to deepen your creative practice, *Next-Gen Music* offers the flexibility and tools to bring your musical vision to life.

**Note:** This course will only be during the 2nd semester.

## **Concert Choir**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

In Concert Choir, students continue to develop and refine their vocal skills. Students will continue studying and performing music written in three and four part harmonies, and further their understanding of vocal production, music history, music theory, and participation in the MSVMA Choral Festival.

## **Encore! (Show Choir)**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Audition

Show Choir is an auditioned ensemble for singers who are interested in developing strong performance skills, presenting vocal music that is entertaining and visually interesting. Students will receive instruction in vocal production, stage choreography, microphone technique, and staging. Music style will include show tunes, vocal jazz, and contemporary popular music. Members are required to perform at annual concerts, as well as at all scheduled performances, many of which are for the community.

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## **A Cappella Choir**

**Credit:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Audition

A Cappella Choir is for the advanced vocalist who is interested in studying many classical music styles in SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) harmonies. Students will receive instruction in vocal production, music reading, music history, and music theory. Members must participate in the annual MSVMA Choral Festival with the entire choir as well as annual concerts and other scheduled performances.

## **Belle Tones**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Audition

Belle Tones is an auditioned all treble choir that focuses specifically on the soprano and alto range. Using the Berkley School District music curriculum, national standards, and Michigan Schools Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) guidelines and required repertoire, this ensemble will perform in and outside of the school district as well as Choral Festival. Students will have the opportunity to participate in multiple competitions and will have access to voice lessons during the class period.

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# Family & Consumer Science

## Introduction to Foods

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

The course will include basic principles of safety and sanitation, measuring techniques, kitchen equipment, basic kitchen skills, explore culinary careers, and nutrition. Students will learn how to read recipes, modify recipes, and prepare basic meals in the foods lab. Students will incorporate 21st century skills and build upon soft skills that will benefit each student in their future. Current work skills, food issues, diet issues, and health issues will be discussed. Course may count towards the completion of Performing/Fine Arts graduation requirement.

## Food & Culture

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

Students will discover similarities and differences of food, diet, stereotypes, safety, and other interesting cultural differences among regions and countries. Regions and countries will be explored through project based learning. Students will examine other regions and cultures with the use of research, discussions, and lab experiences. Course may count towards the completion of Performing/Fine Arts graduation requirement.

## Bake Shoppe

**Credits:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

The objective for this course includes the study of meal management, baking terminology and techniques, and creative, holiday and entertaining cookery. As Intro to Foods is a prerequisite for this class, we will also be utilizing skills learned in that class. We will review tools, terms, abbreviations and equivalents, increasing and decreasing recipes and safety & sanitation. Working knowledge of how to read recipes, incorporate measuring techniques, use of kitchen equipment, and navigating the food lab is also required. Students will discover the pedagogy of baking and examine the different elements of the mixture between art and science in baking. Every item that will be made by the students in this class will be made from scratch. Course may count towards the completion of Performing/Fine Arts graduation requirement.

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# Industrial Technology

## News & Broadcasting

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Credits:** 1.0

**Prerequisite:** None

This introductory class is for students who wish to explore technical writing and audiovisual production. Students will be introduced to technical writing, critical viewing skills, video production terms, the physical workings of video production, and the operations of video equipment. Students will learn to produce video programming to air on the video announcements, for personal use and/or for district social media. They will become adept at technical writing, storyboarding, scripting, logging and editing on Adobe Premiere Pro as they create projects such as a talk show, commercials, PSAs, news 3x5, dramatic literature pieces, and music videos. Students must sign an Acceptable Use Agreement in order to participate. Most projects involve group participation. Lunch, after school and evening participation is often required to work on projects and record district events. Course may count towards the completion of art graduation requirement.

# Business & Marketing

## Marketing

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

This is an introductory course that studies the basic functions and elements of marketing. Students learn the process of marketing that businesses use in our economy. Students develop a model business for which they will apply the many marketing theories learned in class. Students will have the opportunity to participate in DECA competitions throughout the year if they so choose. DECA is a high school association of marketing students. The second semester is a continuation of the marketing program. Students will learn how economic conditions and government policy affect marketing for businesses in our global economy. Students will continue to develop their model business created in Marketing I. Marketing demographics and target marketing will be studied. DECA members will have the opportunity to attend the state and international competitions. All students will have the opportunity to participate in Berkley's DECA annual student produced fashion show. Course may count towards the completion of Art graduation requirement.

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# Other Elective Options

## LINK

**Credits:** 0.5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

The Link program at BHS is a unique opportunity to learn about how disabilities affect students in a school setting. As a Link, you will be placed in a class with a student or students with disabilities to provide social support and be a positive, high school role model. Once a week you will have a meeting with the Link coordinator to learn, ask questions, and do small assignments. The rest of the week you will attend class with your Link(s). You will be responsible for consistent attendance, being present to model how a high schooler handles various social situations, and helping your student(s) with organization and classwork. At the end, you will have gained a new friend, and a new appreciation for the different ways we all learn and the similarities we all share regardless of *how* we learn.

## Study Skills

**Credits:** 0.5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Staff recommendation/student request

Study Skills focuses on improving the executive functioning skills needed to be successful in school and life. Finding an organization system that works for each individual student, having time to complete work, and familiarizing students with the support resources available at school are some of the topics that will be covered.

# Special Education

## English 9-10

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-10

**Prerequisite:** IEP Team / Caseload Teacher recommendation

This course is designed to provide the student with skills in reading comprehension, word recognition, grammar, and the writing process. Students will have the opportunity to read fiction and non-fiction material, work on projects and do a variety of written assignments. The course is set up to align with grade level content (English 9 and English 10) and allows students to work at their own ability and creativity level. Instruction is aligned with MDE's standards-based curriculum.



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## **Program English**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** IEP Team / Caseload Teacher recommendation

This course is designed for students who require individualized opportunities to work on IEP specific English goals in the smaller group setting. Students will work on skills in the area of reading comprehension, word recognition, grammar, emailing and the writing process. Content is individualized to student's reading/writing levels and IEP goals and is designed to build essential skills as they relate to functional adult life roles. Instruction meets alternate standards to MDE's standards-based curriculum and aligns to state alternate standards (Essential Elements)

## **Math 9-10**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9 -10

**Prerequisite:** IEP Team / Caseload Teacher recommendation

This course is designed to provide students with skills in Algebra and Geometry in the smaller group setting. The topics of study are appropriate to each students' mathematical needs. The course is set up to align with grade level content and allows students to work at their own ability and creativity level. Instruction is aligned with MDE's standards-based curriculum.

## **Program Mathematics**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9 -12

**Prerequisite:** IEP Team / Caseload Teacher recommendation

This course is designed for students who require individualized opportunities. The course works on IEP specific math goals and other functional math skills in the smaller group setting. Students reinforce basic mathematical computation skills through application. Topics include functional/everyday math skills, money management, financial literacy, and budgeting. Content taught is specific to student IEP and is designed to build essential skills as they relate to functional adult life roles. Instruction aligns to state alternate standards (Essential Elements).

## **Learning Resource Center (LRC)**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade level:** 9 - 12

**Prerequisite:** IEP Team / Caseload Teacher recommendation

This course is designed to meet specific educational needs of a student. The course will work on emotional goals or specific academic deficit areas identified by IEP recommendations. The LRC provides the student with support and focus on study skills, organization, use of time, and decision-making. Students are expected to bring course assignments and long-term projects. Executive Function activities are completed weekly.

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**Grade level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** IEP Team / Caseload Teacher recommendation

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## **Academic Strategies**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Listed as an accommodation on 504 Plan or counselor recommendation

This course is designed for students to work on specific academic deficit areas. It aims to instruct students on executive functioning, study skills, organization, appropriate use of time and decision making.

## **Program Work Skills**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** IEP Team / Caseload Teacher recommendation

This course is designed for students to build soft skills with a focus on Pre-Vocational topics of study that are differentiated to students needs and abilities. Content includes Types of Employment, Resumes, Job Searching, Interviews, Workplace Accommodations, Job Etiquette, Getting to Work, Getting Paid, Workplace Signs, Workplace Safety, Leaving the Workplace, Entry Level Jobs & Occupations, and Miscellaneous Vocational Skills. Students will also participate in Work Based Instruction in the school environment via a microbusiness/on campus work experience.

## **Program Life Skills & Technology**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** IEP Team / Caseload Teacher recommendation

This course is designed for students who need individualized opportunities to develop functional academic skills as well as skills that they will need in everyday life. Topics include: self-care, vocational, functional reading and math, money management, self-advocacy, independence, technology, social communication, daily living/personal hygiene/healthy eating, budgeting, kitchen safety/kitchen awareness, cooking and community based instruction. Skills taught in the course will also include the following: personal information, community signs, entry level jobs, and workplace safety. Students will also be given opportunities to apply newly learned Life Skills in their communities via community outings as well as have the opportunity to participate in work-based instruction within the school environment.

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# English as a Second Language

## **EL Academic Support Class**

**Credits:** .5 (elective)

**Grade Level:** 9-12

This class is for students who are currently enrolled in the ESL Program who need extra help with academic classes. Former EL students who tested Bridging and Reaching on WIDA (World – Class Instructional Design and Assessment) Test are eligible for one academic year after exiting the program.

Students will explore their learning styles and work on improving their study skills. They will be getting help from EL Teacher and EL Para Educators with projects, homework, and test preparation in academic classes that are challenging for them.

## **EL English**

**Credits:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

***Satisfies Michigan Merit Curriculum graduation requirement of 4.0 credits of English Language Arts***

**English Proficiency Level of Students:** Entering, Beginning, Developing and Expanding according to *WIDA Access Placement Test (W-APT) or WIDA Access*.

This class is a differentiated instruction class for newcomers to the United States as well as students whose home language is a language other than English. Special attention will be given to learning and applying different reading strategies that students can use to fully understand the text. Students will read and analyze various fiction and nonfiction texts, gradually advancing to reading and analyzing novels and poems of American authors. Different genres of literature will be explored. Students will be able to identify the theme, plot and conflict, compare and contrast characters, describe setting and events, and participate in discussions on the development of the plot and characters and how conflicts are addressed and resolved. Students will distinguish elements of literary technique (figurative language, including metaphor, simile, etc.), identify narrative voice, irony, tone and mood. Students will learn a number of academic vocabulary words as well as idiomatic expressions and American slang. Special attention will be given to English grammar and the writing component to prepare students for writing personal narrative, expository, descriptive and persuasive essays. Pre-writing, drafting, editing and revising strategies will be taught. The EDGE Reading, Writing and Language Program (2014) will be used as the main text. In addition, every student will independently read and analyze at least one book per semester during the Sustained Silent Reading time.

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# Online Course Options

## APEX

**Credits:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Staff recommendation

Some students may be recommended to take courses through [APEX](#), an online learning platform, due to a history of difficulty in certain subjects or for credit recovery.