



# Belleville New Tech

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **What does BNT stand for?**
  - BNT stands for Belleville New Tech, a school within a school at Belleville High School.
- **Do BNT classes teach the same content standards as BHS?**
  - All projects cover the Michigan Merit Curriculum.
- **What “new tech” are you using?**
  - The New Tech name actually refers to **new techniques**, as applied to teaching and organizing our program.
  - We approach learning through a different lens, where students are given opportunities to learn through collaborative experiences, working together in teams to solve problems.
- **How are the BNT classes different?**
  - The core of Belleville New Tech are blended block classes, merging two different disciplines into one core class.
  - These classes are taught by two teachers from different departments, such as English Language Arts and Science (**BioLit**), or Social Studies and English Language Arts.
  - Each of the block classes are structured with Project Based Learning.
- **What does Project Based Learning mean?**
  - **Project Based Learning** is a type of learning structure where the students are presented with a big picture question that is relevant to their lives.
  - The students then work in groups over a number of weeks to research and answer that question, preparing a culminating project, such as a group presentation.
  - During the process, students learn to work collaboratively, delegate tasks,
- **I’ve always disliked group work, because there’s always people who don’t pull their weight. How does BNT deal with that?**
  - At the start of each project, students create a contract, in which they state exactly what their expectations are of each other, and what the consequences are if they do not complete that work.
  - Additionally, if a student does not fulfill the obligations in the contract, they can remove a student from the group.
    - There are several steps between this, such as a mediation with a teacher and the rest of the group.
  - If a student is removed from the group, they have to complete all the project’s requirements by themselves.

- **Can my student still take a band class? Other Electives? Advanced Placement Classes? CTE Classes?**
  - Yes to all of the above. Students take their core classes in BNT (Social Studies, Math, English, Science), and then are in traditional classes for the remainder of their day.
  - Electives, such as band, Advanced Placement, CTE classes at William D. Ford Center, dual enrollment, (and more!) can all be accommodated.
  
- **How does a student take honors classes in BNT?**
  - A student who wishes to get Honors credit in a course would indicate that to the teacher at the beginning of the semester.
  - Students pursuing the honors credit in a BNT class would have additional requirements attached to the project, in which they would dive deeper into the material, pushing themselves to learn more, and broadening their learning.
  - Once they complete the additional requirements, the Honors credit will be noted on their official transcript.
  
- **Are grades different in BNT?**
  - Yes, instead of grading using the traditional BHS grading system, which is:
    - **Formative Assessments:** (homework + classwork)
    - **Summative Assessments:** (tests + papers + projects), we use what we call school-wide learning outcomes.
  - Instead, in BNT, Students are graded on:
    - **Content Knowledge:** 50% of their grade
    - **Written Communication:** 20% of their grade
    - **Oral Communication:** 10% of their grade
    - **Collaboration:** 10% of their grade
    - **Agency:** 10% of their grade
  
- **What is Echo, and how is it different from Google Classroom?**
  - Echo is the learning management system of BNT, and it's how students receive and submit work to the teacher.
  - Additionally, all class materials are available on Echo, so that students always have access to all project materials, whether the members are in school or not.