

BOYCP Course Guide (for use during Spring 2026)

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Graduation Requirements

Chicago Public Schools has specific requirements that students must complete, in order to earn their high school diplomas. While most of these are classes you will take, there are a few other requirements - such as taking the ACT and completing service-learning projects. Please see the specific requirements below, available in three languages.

[CPS Graduation Requirements in English](#)

[CPS Graduation Requirements in Spanish](#)

[CPS Graduation Requirements in Simplified Chinese](#)

You can monitor your progress on these graduation requirements in Aspen. In the Student portal, click the “My Info” tab. On the left, click the “Transcript” side tab, then click “Graduation Summary.” Your counselor can also assist you in reviewing your progress toward graduation.

Please note: Classes you are currently taking will *NOT* appear, as you have not yet finished... but you will receive credit for completed requirements after the semester ends.

4-Year Course of Study at BOYCP

Most students enrolling in BOYCP will follow this standard course of study. You can click any course names that are hyperlinked/underlined to view a short video or course description.

- H denotes an Honors section
- Courses in red denote optional electives that students may choose, but are not required. Descriptions for these can be found on pages 4-6.

	9	10	11	12
English	English I	English II	English III	English IV
	H English I	H English II	DP SL Literature I	DP SL Literature II
			DP HL Literature I	DP HL Literature II
	English as a Second Language courses (based on ACCESS test results)			
				Argumentative Literacy, Yearbook; Creative Writing or Science Fiction (offered in alternating years)
Social Science	World Studies	US History	Psychology	Civics
	H World Studies Or AP Human Geo	H US History	DP HL Global Politics I or DP HL History I or DP Psychology II	Civics DP Global Politics II DP HL History II DP Psychology II
				OneGoal
Science	Physics	Chemistry	Biology	Computer Science
	H Physics	H Chemistry	H Biology or DP Biology I	AP Computer Sci Principles DP SL Biology II
				Anatomy & Physiology, Zoology, Aquatic and Marine Science, Robotics
Math	Math I	Math II	Math III	Transitional Math (or AP Precalculus)
	H Math I	H Math II	H Math III	AP Precalculus (or Transitional Math)
			DP Math App I	DP Math App II
	H Math II	H Math III	DP Math App I	DP Math App II
		DP Math App I	DP Math App II	AP Precalculus
	H Math III	DP Math App I	DP Math App II	AP Precalculus
				Economics, AP Business with Personal Finance

World Lang - speakers	SpanSpeakers I	SpanSpeakers II	DP HL Spanish B I or SL Spanish B I	DP HL Spanish B II or SL Spanish B II
	H SpanSpeakers I	AP Spanish Lang	DP HL Spanish B I	DP HL Spanish B II
	AP Spanish Lang	AP Spanish Lit		
World Lang - learners	Spanish I	Spanish II	DP SL Spanish B I	DP SL Spanish B II
World Lang	French I	French II	DP SL French B I	DP SL French B II
Fine Arts	<u>Dance I</u>	H Dance II	H Dance Performance III	H Dance Performance IV
Fine Arts website	<u>Adv. Mixed Choir I</u>	Adv. Mixed Choir II	Adv. Mixed Choir III	Adv. Mixed Choir IV
Arts Course Flyer	<u>Beginning Band</u>	H Concert Band II, III or IV		
		H Marching Band II, III or IV		
	Art I	H Art II	DP HL Visual Arts 1	DP HL Visual Arts 2
	Sculpture I	H Sculpture II		
	Digital Photography		H Digital Media II	H Digital Media III
	Video Production/Broadcasting		Broadcast Technology II	Broadcast Technology III
	Guitar 1	H Advanced Guitar I		
PE	PE I/Health	PE II/Driver's Ed	Individual Lifetime Activities Strength & Conditioning Group Exercise Dance Fitness	
			Junior Leaders	Senior Leaders

Additional Notes:

- Honors placement/changes in level follow [this policy](#).
- The State of Illinois requires 4 years of PE. Students in IB DP, IB CP, or who participate in school sports teams can see their counselor to discuss the possibility of an exemption.
- ALL students interested in the IB CP, IB DP, CTE Broadcasting, or OneGoal programs must apply during 10th grade, regardless of how you were admitted to BOYCP. Other students may choose individual DP courses to take, if they appear in the online course selections menu.
- All 9th and 10th grade students at BOYCP are in the IB Middle Years Programme, and must take a World Language and a Fine Arts credit both years.

Elective Course Descriptions (for grades 11-12)

(Students in grades 9 and 10 must choose a Fine Art as part of the IB MYP. See our [Arts Course Flyer!](#))

Elective Courses	Available in grades:
Advanced Guitar (Honors): a high-energy, performance-focused class for dedicated guitarists looking to take their skills to the next level through challenging music, collaborative projects, and exciting live performance opportunities—admission by teacher recommendation or audition video.	10-12
Anatomy & Physiology: Ever wondered how the human body keeps everything running? This course takes you beyond the textbook for a first-hand look at how we're built and how we function. You won't just read about anatomy—you'll experience it through interactive lab work and real-world dissections. Whether you're headed for nursing, med school, or lab technology, you'll gain the practical skills and 'anatomy-IQ' you need to succeed in the health sciences. Come see how the body works from the inside out!	11-12
AP Business with Personal Finance: Explore the business disciplines of entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, accounting, and management through real-world business applications, case studies, and project-based learning in this AP Career Kickstart course. Students who wish to take AP Business their senior year are strongly encouraged (though not required) to take Economics their junior year.	12
AP Computer Science: an introductory college-level computing course that introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. Students learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students also explain how computing innovations and computing systems—including the internet—work, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical.	12
AP Precalculus: a course designed to prepare students for higher level college mathematics by exploring in depth the properties of polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, and polar functions. This course is ideal for anyone interested in pursuing a career in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math.	12
Aquatic & Marine Science (Honors): A course that shows how different science disciplines (chemistry, physics, biology, etc) are used to understand how marine and freshwater ecosystems function. This course is heavily influenced by student designed experiments and projects that are a part of local, state and national opportunities related to the fields of science and marine/aquatic science. While simultaneously asking critical questions about social systemic issues (environmental racism, industrialization/urbanization, capitalism) that play a role in how humans impact and affect these different ecosystems.	11-12

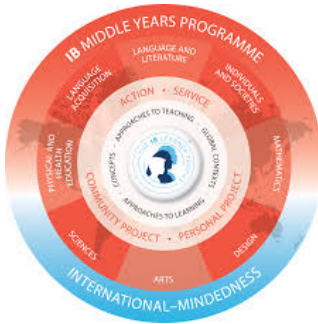
Art II (Honors): allows students to use skills gained in Multimedia Art I to develop their own artistic practice based on their own interests. (Requires a C or better in Art I.)	10-12
Argumentative Literacy: Our goal in the class is to explore and understand the hidden aspects no one talks about from our history. For example, Sundown Towns, human experimentation and forced sterilization, red zoned cities, racism, Black Lives Matters, The Chicano Movement, The Holocaust, Immigration, etc.	11-12
Band: learn to play an instrument and learn the skills needed to become performers, performing at festivals, parades, school concerts, and more. Honors Concert Band and Honors Marching Band options are available to those with band experience.	9-12
Choir: Beyond singing, we travel to live musical performances, take field trips to recording studios, and learn how to run a recording session using pianos, beat-making software and vocal microphones! We regularly perform in the halls of BOYCP, on the stage, and around town.	9-12
Creative Writing: Our goal in Creative Writing is to embrace our identities as writers; we will let go of the idea that there is a “right” way to write, and instead, we will use writing to play with words, forms, and ideas by writing many different genres, including memoir, short story, poetry, and screenplay. This course will next be offered for 2027-28.	11-12
Dance: Even if you’re new to dancing, we welcome everyone with open arms while providing a safe space to express yourself kinesthetically. Step out of your comfort zone and learn techniques to create your own compositions!	9-12
DP Biology: provides a deep understanding of the structure and function of living things in the context of real world phenomena and current event issues. Biology covers several different topics including molecules, cells, genetics, ecology, evolution, and human physiology. IB Bio would be appropriate for any student looking for a challenge and/or planning on choosing a career in a health field.	11 (then continues into 12th)
DP French: a 2-year course for students who have taken MYP French 1 and 2 and will continue to expand their receptive and productive skills in French.	11 (then continues into 12th)
DP Global Politics: dive deep into the interworking of global relations in the modern world. All of our case studies are drawn from the last 20 years, so you will get an unique view of how history is happening today.	11 (then continues into 12th)
DP History: a world history course based on a comparative, multi-perspective approach to history and focused around key historical concepts such as change, causation and significance. It involves the study of a variety of types of history, including political, economic, social and cultural, encouraging students to think historically and to develop historical skills.	11 (then continues into 12th)
DP Psychology: investigate human behavior through various lenses, including brain anatomy & chemistry, the impact of memory & emotion, and the role of culture and identity in behavior, while getting hands on experience in conducting psychological research.	11 (then continues into 12th)

DP Spanish: a course where students analyze five themes that connect to their culture and identity. It is also a course that gives students the opportunity to expand their language in all domains and allows them to step out of their comfort zone all while preparing for higher education. We offer HL (higher level) for heritage speakers of Spanish, and SL (standard level) for those first learning Spanish in high school.	11 (then continues into 12th)
DP Visual Arts: Make art for college credit! Explore many ways to make art while building a portfolio of your best artwork. Develop your own unique art style while experimenting with your choice of photography, painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, collage and many more!	11 (then continues into 12th)
Economics: the study of managing resources efficiently, both from a global lens as well as from a personal finance standpoint. Students who wish to take AP Business their senior year are strongly encouraged to take Economics their junior year.	11-12
PE - Dance Fitness: This PE elective course is designed to go beyond the traditional workout, offering a 360-degree approach to your physical and mental well-being. What the Class Includes: Dance Cardio (The Heart): Get your heart racing and your spirits high with a high-energy mix of Zumba and Step Aerobics. Dance Conditioning (The Core): Using Pilates-inspired techniques, we focus on postural alignment, core stability, and whole body muscle tone. Strength Training (The Power): Build functional strength and bone density through targeted exercises designed to support your body's daily movements and athletic longevity. Wellness, Yoga & Meditation (The Mind): We close the loop with mindful Yoga flows and guided Meditation to reduce stress, improve flexibility, and facilitate mental clarity. (counts as PE credit)	11-12
PE - Group Exercise: a fitness-focused course that provides students the opportunity to experience a variety of cardiovascular activities within a large and small group setting. (counts as PE credit)	11-12
PE - Individual Lifetime Activities: exposes students to different activities they can do throughout life to stay active. The activities include different backyard games, net games, and golf. (counts as PE credit)	11-12
PE - Strength & Conditioning: designed to teach the fundamentals of weight-resistance exercise, basics of building muscle, and the concepts of progressive-overload training. (counts as PE credit)	11-12
Psychology: learn about human behavior- why do humans act the way they do? Topics covered include the importance of sleep, the impact of stress, how people learn, how memories are stored, how drugs impact the brain and more!	11-12
Robotics: In this introductory course, students will be exposed to and study the principles of 3D design, computer programming, and electronics as they design and build robots to perform specific tasks and functions. Introduction to robotics is a hands-on course where students will develop a strong foundation in both the theoretical and practical aspects of robotics; The course emphasizes experiential learning, featuring interactive activities and collaborative team projects.	12

Science Fiction (Honors): In this class, students will explore the development of Science Fiction and Fantasy as a literary genre. Students will have the opportunity to study some of the most renowned Science Fiction writers including Mary Shelley, Isaac Asimov, H.G. Wells, Ray Bradbury, Philip K. Dick, Ursula K. LeGuin, and Octavia Butler. Students will critique, analyze, and discuss novels, poems, essays, and cinematic interpretations. Throughout the school year, students will engage in literature circles, complete engaging multi-genre projects, and have an opportunity to write creatively on topics in Science Fiction. Some areas of study throughout the course, among others, will include constructive social criticism, the universality of human nature, dystopian societies and the interactions between man and machine.	11-12
Sculpture II (Honors): build upon the skills learned in Sculpture I by exploring new media and embracing more creative independence. Be ready to create, problem-solve, and get hands-on with materials. (Requires a C or better in Sculpture I.)	10-12
Transitional Math: designed to prepare and transition students directly into college and career pathways requiring general education college level math competencies in quantitative literacy and statistics. Successful completion of a transitional math course guarantees placement into a college credit bearing math class at any Community College in the State of Illinois.	12
Yearbook: Foster your creativity and gain real-world experience in visual storytelling as you capture a year of memories for our entire BOYCP community. Students in this course will gain skills in journalism, design, and project management -- dedication and collaboration are a must as we work together to create our school's yearbook.	11-12
Zoology: a class focused on the animal kingdom. We will look at different species, how they interact, what types of different biomes exist, and so much more! The class will also hopefully have a field trip to Brookfield Zoo!	11-12

**All DP and AP courses allow the possibility of earning college credit while still in high school, depending on students' performance on the assessments.

International Baccalaureate Programmes at BOYCP



IB Middle Years Programme

ALL 9th and 10th grade students at BOYCP participate in this program, which includes a holistic education in Math, English, Science, Social Science, PE, World Language, and Fine Arts. In addition, sophomores complete the Personal Project as a capstone to their IB MYP experience.



IB Diploma Programme

Current sophomores can apply to participate in the IB DP during their junior and senior years. They will engage in a rigorous, two-year course of education along with completing requirements for service, an Extended Essay, and a Theory of Knowledge course. The IB DP provides exceptional preparation for students applying to competitive colleges, along with the chance to earn college credits through their DP examinations.



IB Career-related Programme

Current sophomores can apply to participate in the IB DP during their junior and senior years. The IB CP allows students to combine an interest in one of BOYCP's career education fields (Digital Media or Engineering) with some advanced IB coursework. Students will take their career course, at least 2 Diploma Programme courses, and Personal & Professional Skills class. In addition, they will complete requirements for service, language and cultural studies, and a Reflective Project. The IB CP combines preparation for college coursework along with a deep focus on a particular career.

For questions about the IB DP or IB CP programs, please contact:
Ms. Meghan Kavalauskas, IB DP Coordinator - mesenjanin@cps.edu
Mr. Christopher Oakes, IB CP Coordinator - CROakes@cps.edu

IB Diploma Programme Course of Study

Students admitted into the IB DP will take the following two-year courses during 11th and 12th grades. When choosing a language and an elective, please note that IB DP students must take at least 3 HL (higher level) courses.*

For senior year, no course selections need to be made. Every class is a continuation of the two-year course started in 11th grade.

DP students obtain a waiver for the PE and Computer Science requirements.

	11	12
Math	DP SL Math Applications I	DP SL Math Applications II
or	DP SL Math Applications II	AP Precalculus
English	DP HL Literature I	DP HL Literature II
Science	DP SL Biology I	DP SL Biology II
History	DP HL History I	DP HL History II
TOK	Theory of Knowledge I & Honors Civics	Theory of Knowledge II
World Lang	DP HL Spanish B I (heritage speakers)	DP HL Spanish B II
or	DP SL Spanish B I (Spanish learners)	DP SL Spanish B II
or	DP SL French B I (if you took French in 9/10)	DP SL French B II
Electives	DP HL Global Politics I	DP HL Global Politics II
or	DP HL Visual Arts I	DP HL Visual Arts II
or	DP SL Psychology I	DP SL Psychology II

*You must have 3+ HL courses, so DP SL Psychology is only available to students taking HL Spanish. If you are taking an SL language, please choose DP HL Visual Arts or DP HL Global Politics.

IB Career-related Programme Course of Study

Students admitted into the IB CP will take the following courses during 11th and 12th grade.

Note: CP students may obtain a waiver for Computer Science; however, they are welcome to take that class senior year if it fits in their schedules.

	11	12
CP Core	H Digital Media II	H Digital Media III
or	H Engineering I	H Engineering II
AND	Personal & Professional Skills Honors Civics	Personal & Professional Skills II
Math	Math III	Transitional Math
or	Honors Math III	AP Precalculus
or	DP SL Math Applications I	DP SL Math Applications II
or	DP SL Math Applications II	AP Precalculus
English	English III	English IV
or	DP SL Literature I	DP SL Literature II
or	DP HL Literature I	DP HL Literature II
Science	Biology	
or	Honors Biology	
or	DP SL Biology I	DP SL Biology II
DP Courses	CP Students must take 2+ DP Courses from among the following: • DP Math (if already selected above) • DP English (if already selected above) • DP Biology (if already selected above) • DP History • DP Spanish B HL (for heritage speakers) • DP Spanish B SL (for Spanish Learners) • DP French B SL (if you took French in 9/10) • DP Visual Arts • DP Global Politics • DP Psychology	
PE	Individual Lifetime Activities, Strength & Conditioning, Group Exercise, Dance Fitness, or Junior PE Leaders	
Electives	If CP seniors have not yet selected 7 courses, they will choose from other electives in order to complete their schedule. (See pages 4-6 for options.)	

How to Request Courses in Aspen

[This 5-minute video](#) and/or [these slides](#) will guide you through the step-by-step process.

General instructions:

1. Log into your Aspen account: <https://aspen.cps.edu/aspen/logon.do>
2. Click the “My Info” tab near the top.
3. Click the “Requests” side tab on the bottom left.
4. Read all instructions carefully!
5. Click “Select” for a particular subject, and follow the directions to choose your class(es).*
Use the right-arrow icon (>) to see more choices that might be available.
6. Click OK when done with each individual subject.
7. When done choosing all 7 classes for next year, click “Post.”
If applicable - follow the error messages to correct any mistakes.

*In some areas, you’ll need to scroll down to see all the options, depending on your screen resolution. Please scroll to the right, and then down, if you see fewer than 10 classes listed.

ect	CourseNumber	CourseDescription	Academic level	Credit	Prerequisite	Status	Alternate 1	Alternate 2
	013301R	RS1 Seminar	Regular	0.5				
	239101R	RS1 Economics	Regular	0.5				
	163101R	RS1 Creative Writing	Regular	0.5				
	196201R	RS1 Humanities: Young Adult Literature	Regular	0.5				
	131801R	RS1 Argumentative Literacy I	Regular	0.5				
	214401A	AS1 IB SL Psychology II (if in AP now)	Advanced	0.5				
	921101R	RS1 Studio Drawing & Painting I	Regular	0.5				

OK Cancel

Required courses will already be entered for you, and should not be removed. Depending on your grade level, you may have just 1 or 2 choices to make, or you might have several areas where you need to choose a course.

If you see a course marked as “Needs Approval” and it has not already been selected for you or marked as “recommended,” do **NOT** pick that class now. Your request will be deleted and the school will choose a different course for you.

In order to see your full list of requests, you can click on “Exit entry mode” in the upper left corner (as shown in the following screenshot). This will show every request and recommendation you have, including any required courses where you do not make a selection.

Options
Reports
Help
Search on CrsNo

<< Exit entry mode

2021-2022 - Requests: 1 primary, 0 alternate - Scheduled: 0% - Credits: 0.5

Instructions
Please choose your Fine Arts class for next year. Most of your core courses are automatically assigned, based on your current class. They are included here so you can see what your full schedule will be.
We will do our best to accommodate your requests, but please note that we sometimes have to substitute different courses based on our scheduling availability. Thank you in advance for your understanding.
[BOYCP Course Guide](#)

Primary requests

	Subject area	SchoolCourse > CrsNo	SchoolCourse > Description	Inclusion?	SecType	Priority	NeedsApproval?	Alternate?	Alt 1 > CrsNo	Alt 2 > CrsNo	TermCode	Sec
Select...	Mathematics											
Select...	English											
Select...	Science											
Select...	Social Science											
Select...	Physical Education	990201R	RS1 PE II	N		0	N	N				
Select...	World Language											
Select...	Fine Arts											

Notes for counselor

Toggle back to “Entry mode” when you’re ready to click “Post” in order to finalize your requests. Before you click “Post,” you will need to ensure that your total credits is 3.5 (circled above).

Please note: While we do our best to honor requests, it is logistically impossible to give every student every request they make. Sometimes we will have to make substitutions, and will consider any “direct alternates” you entered first. Thank you in advance for understanding.

Online Course Request Windows in Spring 2026

Students will enter their course requests in Aspen during the open window for their grade level. Once the window closes, requests can no longer be entered. If a student has not already submitted their preferences, the school will choose appropriate courses for the upcoming year. Schedule change requests will not be accepted from students who fail to enter their requests.

Grade Level	Online window opens:	Deadline for request entry:
Current juniors	Mon, Feb. 2	Thurs, Feb 5 (11:59 pm)
Current sophomores	Mon, Feb. 23	Thurs, Feb. 26 (11:59 pm)
Current freshmen	Mon, March 2	Thurs, March 5 (11:59 pm)

Counselor Assignments & Contact Info

Counselors will be visiting different classes to help explain the course selection process, as well as hosting open help hours in the North Office during lunch (of the week your grade level does requests). If you need individualized assistance, please contact your personal counselor.

Exception: All IB DP and IB CP students have Mr. Salinas (jsalinas7@cps.edu), regardless of your advisory number.

Class of 2027

Counselor	Advisory	Advisor(s)
Mr. Andres Avila aavila@cps.edu	A704	Morrow & Colucci
	A705	Ishmael & Ortega
	A709	N. Serrano & Molina
Mr. Omar Calderon ocalderon6@cps.edu	A701	Winningham & Lebron
	A702	Peabody & Uribe
	A703	Sells & Gallegos
	A706	Arguellez & Colunga
Ms. Clare Foertsch ccfoertsch@cps.edu	A707	Baez & Mendez
	A708	Alexander & Engelbreit
	A710	Valdez & Anderson

Class of 2028

Counselor	Advisory	Advisor(s)
Mr. Andres Avila aavila@cps.edu	A801	Alvarez & Buras
	A802	Cortes & Juarez
	A803	E. Strentz & Arellano
Mr. Omar Calderon ocalderon6@cps.edu	A804	Weber
	A805	Asma & Phalen
	A806	Kavalauskas & Oakes
Ms. Clare Foertsch ccfoertsch@cps.edu	A807	Ness & Nevarez
	A808	Beckman & Zator
	A809	Apfelbeck & Milby-Lopez
	A810	Brener

Class of 2029

Counselor	Advisory	Advisor(s)
Mr. Andres Avila aavila@cps.edu	A905	Romero & Vega
	A906	Moreno & Cisneros
	A908	Maxwell
Mr. Omar Calderon ocalderon6@cps.edu	A901	Moorman & Tabares
	A903	Haarmann & Henninger
	A907	A. Guzman & Avitia
Ms. Clare Foertsch ccfoertsch@cps.edu	A902	Papaefthimious & Hui
	A909	Espinoza-Bautista
	A910	Estrada & Mina
Mr. Juan Carlos Salinas jsalinas7@cps.edu	A904	Tiller & Enriquez