

**BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL COUNSELING**  
**EIGHTH GRADE SCHEDULING ORIENTATION**

**January 15, 2020**

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## Educational Philosophy

The educational philosophy of the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District is founded on the belief that the responsibility of school is to nurture intellect, civic mindedness, and sociability in students through the combined efforts of staff, administration, parents and community. Our Board of Education believes that students should be guided to attain the knowledge and to develop those skills necessary for success in future occupational endeavors and in the social world in which they will find themselves after formal schooling ends.

A fundamental aim of our schools is to develop in youth and understanding of, an appreciation for, and a devotion to the democratic way of life and instill a desire to improve this way of life.

The Board believes the welfare and development of each individual is the basis of our educational program. All children shall have an opportunity to learn. A well prepared individual, able to meet and solve the problems of society, is the goal.

The Board and staff accept the following charges to achieve this goal:

- To accept primary responsibility for giving students a mastery of the basic skills of learning, thinking and problem solving; for teaching them to use the various media of self-expression; for instilling in them a knowledge of the social and natural sciences; for acquainting them with the richness of our heritage; and for stimulating them to productive work in the various areas of human endeavor.
- To recognize their responsibility to help meet the physical, intellectual and emotional needs of children, particularly the needs to inquire, learn, think, create, establish aesthetic, moral and ethical values, and to relate satisfactorily to others in social situations involving family, work, government and recreation.
- To acknowledge the importance of their supplemental role to the home and other social agencies in developing habits which make for effective personal living, the maintenance of optimum physical and mental health, and the establishment of sound moral, ethical and aesthetic values.



## Graduation - Requirements

### Graduation Requirements: High School

Diplomas shall be granted only to students who have completed the requirements for graduation as mandated by state law and administrative code established and approved by the Bridgewater-Raritan Board of Education. Those requirements include:

- The achievement of approved levels of proficiency in all courses necessary to satisfy graduation requirements.
- The student's compliance with the district's final examination requirements as stated in *BOE Policy 2624.1, Mid-Year and Final Examinations: High School*.
- The student's compliance with the district's attendance requirements as stated in *BOE Regulation 5200, Attendance*.
- The achievement of a passing score as indicated in the chart below (by graduating year) on any required New Jersey State assessment(s) or other designated, substitute assessment(s) approved by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).

#### For the Classes of 2023 and beyond:

##### From NJDOE:

*"The NJDOE is committed to providing fair notice to students and educators and will continue to collaborate with stakeholders to transition to the next generation of statewide assessments."*

### High School Credit and Course Requirements for Graduation

- A total of **120** credits are required for graduation, 90 of which must be earned at the high school level or demonstration of proficiency as per Option II (see page 5).
- Courses amounting to at least 35 credits must be taken by all 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. For these three grade levels, a minimum of seven courses must be scheduled at all times.
- 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are permitted to take the minimum number of credits needed for graduation. Students are required to take an English Language & Literature IV course and a Physical Education/Health IV course during their senior year.
- Successful completion of the following courses:
  - Four years (20 credits) of **English Language & Literature** (AP English Language & Composition and/or AP English Language & Literature included)
  - Three years (15 credits) of **Social Studies**; two years (10 credits) must be American History and one year (5 credits) must be World Civilizations.
  - Three years (15 credits) of **Science** (5 credits must be in laboratory biology and one additional laboratory/inquiry based science course in chemistry, physics, or environmental science)
  - Three years (15 credits) of **Mathematics** (must include Algebra I and Geometry)
  - One year (5 credits) in **World Languages**
  - One year (5 credits) in **Visual and Performing Arts**

#### *Visual and Performing Arts Courses:*

AP Art History	Cultural Ceramics	Select Treble Choir
AP Music Theory	Design	String Orchestra 9
AP Studio Art	Digital Fine Arts I	String Orchestra
Art History	Mixed Choir	Symphonic Band
Art I, II, III, IV (all levels)	Music Workshop	Symphonic Choir
Ceramics I, II, III, IV	Painting and Drawing	Symphony Orchestra
Concert Band	Sculpture	Wind Ensemble
Crafts I, II		

- One year (5 credits) in **21<sup>st</sup> Century Life and Careers**, or **Career-Technical Education**

*21<sup>st</sup> Century Life and Career Courses:*

Academic Internship Program	Family & Child I,
Accounting I, II	Family and Consumer Sciences
AP Computer Science A	Fashion & Creative Design
AP Computer Science Principles	Filming & Video Editing I, II, III, IV
AP Macroeconomics	Fundamentals of Automated Design
AP Microeconomics	Home & Interior Design
App Development	International Foods
Audio & Music Engineering	Introduction of Culinary Arts
Baking & Pastry Arts	Introduction to Business
Business & Criminal Law	Introduction to Electronics
Career Exploration and Awareness	International Business
CNC Production	Introduction to Computer Science
Computer Aided Design Tech. I, II	Introduction to Electronics
Computer Applications	Introduction to Marketing through Social Media
Computer Repair & Tech. Support I, II	Leadership & Philanthropy
Cooking Across America	Notetaking & Study Skills
Culinary Nutrition	Photo Editing & Web Design
Design & 3D Printing	Photo Editing for Business
Design & Sewing Techniques	Programming for Business
Desktop Publishing & Multimedia Presentations	Programming for Business II
Early Childhood Education	Today's Living
Engineering Computer Graphics I	Wood Design and Fabrication I, II, III
Entrepreneurship & Business Management	
All Programs of Study at Somerset County Vocational Technical School	

- One-half year (2.5 credits) in **Financial, Economic, Business, and Entrepreneurial Literacy**

Accounting I	Financial Planning
AP Macroeconomics	Introduction to Business
AP Microeconomics	Today's Living
Economics Today	

- **Technological Literacy** – integrated throughout the curriculum
  - One credit year of **Physical Education, Health** and safety for each year of enrollment.
- In some instances, as determined by the high school principal in consultation with the Superintendent, students may meet specific credit and curriculum requirements through *BOE Policy and Rule 5462, Option Two*

**Requirements for Promotion**

- 90 credits are required for placement in grade 12.
- 60 credits are required for placement in grade 11
- 30 credits are required for placement in grade 10.

## Option II

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) recognizes and acknowledges that all students will not achieve Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS) in the same manner and/or with the same level of success. To this end, the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District is permitted to allow students with individualized learning opportunities outside of the traditional classroom that are stimulating and challenging and that enable students to meet or exceed the Core Curriculum Content Standards. This is commonly referred to as, "**Option II.**" Option II allows for the design and implementation of programs to meet the needs of **all** students. Students are permitted to earn credit toward graduation through Option II learning experiences. Credits toward graduation will be awarded only to students who have completed an 8<sup>th</sup> grade program. Prior to the completion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Option II may be utilized for the purpose of advancement only. These experiences include, but are not limited to: interdisciplinary or theme-based programs, independent study, early college credit, magnet programs, student exchange programs, distance learning, on-line learning, work-based programs, internships, service learning, co-curricular or extra-curricular programs, and/or other structured learning experiences. In addition, Option II allows for group programs based upon specific instructional objects that meet or exceed Core Curriculum Content Standards. Participation in Option II is predicated on the application process through which students seek approval. The process for application, evaluation and assessment is detailed below. Attainment of credit toward graduation is based on the successful completion of assessments that verify student achievement in meeting or exceeding the Core Curriculum Content Standards at the high school level.

### **Option II Credit Attainment**

Students planning to pursue course work for credit external to the traditional offerings of BRHS curriculum are required to submit a completed application to the High School's Principal's Option II Credit Review Committee. This committee will be comprised of the High School Principal, a designated Departmental Supervisor, Supervisor of School Counseling, and a designated School Counselor. **Deadlines for submission are June 1<sup>st</sup> for Summer and Fall Semester course work; January 1<sup>st</sup> for Spring Semester course work.** The Principal's Option II Credit Review Committee will review each application to determine eligibility and grant approval/disapproval based on the criteria outlined. Each student's application will be reviewed on its own merit. The committee will ensure that each student is on track to fulfill graduation requirements. The Assistant Superintendent will review all decisions of the committee.

Grades for approved Option II course work will be reflected on a student's transcript with the designation of "P" (Pass) or "U" (Fail). Upon approval, policies regarding the dropping of said course work will follow those procedures as outlined by the institution providing the course work **and** the procedures as outlined in the BRHS Program of Studies. Option II course work will not be included in the calculation of a student's overall Grade Point Average (GPA). Official transcripts generated by course work taken outside of BRHS may be attached to a student's BRHS transcript. Such requests must be made through the student's assigned school counselor. Once credit has been earned in an approved Option II course, students will not be permitted to enroll in an equivalent BRHS course.

## Scheduling Procedures

The high school's master schedule and staffing patterns are determined by the course selections of the students. The process of selecting an academic program is one in which many people are involved and which requires several months of preparation and consultation. Student course selections are made after serious deliberation among student, parents, faculty, and counselor. The selection program is designed to meet the student's personal and educational needs and goals. Class size considerations and staffing are determined by initial student course requests. Every attempt is made to accommodate each student's requests. However, due to the complexities inherent in building a master schedule for a school our size, conflicts arise which result in the school's inability to fulfill all requests. Board of Education policy indicates that each course must have a minimum of 15 students to be offered. There may be occasions when a course will not be offered due to insufficient enrollment. This will necessitate the selection of an alternate request. All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will engage in an online registration process in which elective course requests will be selected by the individual student. Incoming freshmen (current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students) will register for elective courses only during the week of February 3-9, 2020. Changes to individual student course requests will not be accepted after the close of scheduling meetings with assigned school counselor, therefore, it is essential that the original selections are given careful and thoughtful consideration. Scheduling meetings with school counselors will begin on February 24, 2020, and conclude on March 27, 2020. Changes to course requests will not be permitted after this date. Students will receive a copy of their 2020-2021 schedules prior to the start of school. Please note that the schedule received is tentative and subject to change without notice. The basis for such changes are a result of systemic needs, e.g., to balance sections of courses, programmatic changes, and staffing patterns. Following the start of school, schedule changes must follow the procedures as outlined in the **Program of Studies**. The policy of Bridgewater-Raritan High School is not to make preference-based or lateral course changes. Requests to accommodate the choice of a specific teacher, lunch period, and/or other scheduling arrangements will not be permitted.

## 9th Grade Course Offerings

<b>English</b>		<b>World Language</b>		<b>Vocational Technical School</b>	
English Lang. & Lit. I – A	5.0	Spanish I – A	5.0	Vo Tech – A	15
English Lang. & Lit. I – H	5.0	Spanish II – A	5.0	Vo Tech – C	15
English Lang. & Lit. I – S	5.0	Spanish II – H	5.0	<b>Language Support Services</b>	
(Electives)		French I – A	5.0	Biology	5.0
Drama	2.5	French II – A	5.0	ESL I Grammar & Convers	5.0
Forensics – A	2.5	French II – H	5.0	ESL II Grammar & Convers	5.0
Intro Creative Writing – A	2.5	German I – A	5.0	ESL III Read & Writing Fluency	
Journalism – A	2.5	German II – A	5.0	& Lit	5.0
Kid Lit Literacy	2.5	German II – H	5.0	Lang & Lit Transition I	5.0
LP: Lyrical Poetry	2.5	Italian I – A	5.0	Lang & Lit Transition II	5.0
Publication Dev & Prod	5.0	Italian II – A	5.0	Language & Literature SI	5.0
Reading Animation	2.5	Italian II – H	5.0	Mathematics SI	5.0
Speech – A	2.5	Latin I – A	5.0	Social Studies SI	5.0
Theatre Production	2.5	Latin II – A	5.0	<b>Physical Education</b>	
<b>Mathematics</b>		Latin II – H	5.0	Phys Ed & Health 9 – 5	5.0
Algebra I – A	5.0	Chinese I – A	5.0	Phys Ed & Health 9 – 4	4.0
Algebra II – A	5.0	Chinese II – A	5.0	<b>Lunch</b>	
Algebra II – H	5.0	Chinese II – H	5.0	Lunch (Sem 1)	0.0
Essentials of Algebra I – A	5.0	Spanish for Heritage Speakers	5.0	Lunch (Sem 2)	0.0
Geometry – A	5.0	<b>Business Education</b>		Vo-Tech Lunch A	0.0
Geometry – H	5.0	Accounting I	5.0	Vo-Tech Lunch C	0.0
(Electives)		App Development	2.5	<b>In Class Support</b>	
Computer Science I	2.5	Business & Criminal Law	2.5	Algebra I – A	5.0
Computer Science II	2.5	Career Explor & Awareness	2.5	Biology – A	5.0
<b>Social Studies</b>		Computer Applications	2.5	English Lang. & Lit. I – A	5.0
World Civilization II – A	5.0	Comp Repr/Tech Supp I	2.5	Geometry – A	5.0
World Civilization II – H	5.0	Comp Repr/Tech Supp II	2.5	Spanish I – A	5.0
World Civilization II – S	5.0	Desktop Pub & Multimedia Pres	2.5	World Civilization II – A	5.0
(Electives)		Entrepren & Bus Mngmnt	2.5	<b>Pre-Vocational</b>	
Civics	2.5	International Business	2.5	Career & Comm Exp-CCE	15.0
Cultural Ceramics	2.5	Intro to Business	2.5	Career Exploration	2.5
Economics Today	2.5	Intro Marketing–Social Media	2.5	Employment Orientation (1 per)	5.0
Women's Studies: Evolving		Leadership & Philanthropy	2.5	<b>Resource Center</b>	
Image of Women - A	2.5	Notetaking & Study Skills	2.5	Biology	5.0
Women's Studies: Social Change:		Photo Editing & Web Des	2.5	Eng Lang & Lit I	5.0
Changing Gender Roles – A	2.5	Photo Editing for Business	2.5	Essentials of Algebra I	5.0
<b>Science</b>		Program for Business	2.5	Literacy Support	5.0
Biology – A	6.0	Program for Business II	2.5	Math I or II Workshop	5.0
Biology – H	6.0	<b>Industrial Technology</b>		Study Skills	5.0
Biology – S	5.0	Audio/Music Engineering	2.5	World Civilization II	5.0
<b>Music</b>		CAD Tech I	5.0	<b>Life Skills</b>	
Concert Band	5.0	CNC Production	2.5	Art	5.0
Mixed Choir	5.0	Design & 3D Printing	2.5	Crafts-LS	2.5
Music Workshop I	5.0	Film/Video Editing I	2.5	Digital Fine Arts-LS	2.5
String Orchestra 9	5.0	Film/Video Editing II	2.5	English 9/10	5.0
<b>Fine Arts</b>		Intro to Electronics	5.0	Life Skills	5.0
Art I	5.0	Wood Dsgn & Fab I	5.0	Math 9/10	5.0
Art History	5.0	<b>Family &amp; Consumer Science</b>		Media Communications	2.5
Ceramics I	2.5	Baking & Pastry Arts	2.5	Science/Social Studies	5.0
Ceramics II	2.5	Cooking Across America	2.5		
Crafts I	2.5	Design & Sewing Techs	2.5		
Crafts II	2.5	Family & Cons Sciences	2.5		
Cultural Ceramics	2.5	Home & Interior Design	2.5		
Digital Fine Arts I	2.5	International Foods	2.5		
		Intro to Culinary Arts	2.5		
		Sewing Concepts	2.5		

**BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL*****SAMPLE SCHEDULE***

<b>PERIOD</b>		<b>TIME</b>
<b>1 MTWRF</b>	English Lang & Lit I	<b>7:20 – 8:00</b>
<b>Homeroom</b>		<b>8:06 – 8:10</b>
<b>2 MTWRF</b>	World Civilization II	<b>8:16 – 8:56</b>
<b>3 M (T-Biology Lab) WRF</b>	Physical Education	<b>9:02 – 9:42</b>
<b>4 MTWRF</b>	Biology	<b>9:48 – 10:28</b>
<b>5 MTWRF</b>	Mathematics	<b>10:34 – 11:15</b>
<b>6 MTWRF</b>	World Language	<b>11:21 – 12:02</b>
<b>7 MTWRF</b>	Lunch	<b>12:08 – 12:49</b>
<b>8 MTWRF</b>	Elective(s)	<b>12:55 – 1:35</b>
<b>9 MTWRF</b>	Elective(s)	<b>1:41 – 2:21</b>