

# FAQs about High School Scheduling

*For Current 9th-11th Grade Families*

## Daily Schedule

1. How much passing time is between classes?  
5 minutes
2. How long is lunch?  
30 minutes

## **Electives**

3. Where do we find a list of future elective options?  
The BCHS Curriculum Guide has a description of each course we offer. It can be found on the website [here](#).

## **Fine Arts**

4. If my student wants to take band, but does not want Marching Band, do we select Jazz Band?
  - a. Please reach out to the band directors to find out about non-marching options within the band program.

## **High School Credits While in Middle School**

5. Which WMS classes count for high school credit?
  - a. Spanish, German, Algebra, and Geometry can count for high school credit, however they do not factor into the high school GPA.

## **Dual Enrollment/Advanced Placement**

6. Does the school offer college courses or dual enrollment?
  - a. Students have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement courses in grades 10-12. Students in AP courses take an exam at the end of the course in order to potentially earn college credit.
  - b. Students in grades 9-11 may be eligible to take college courses while in high school. More information on dual enrollment opportunities can be found on the high school website, or students can reach out individually to their counselor.
7. What is the difference between AP (Advanced Placement) and Dual Enrollment? Which is better?
  - a. Byron Center offers 19 College Board AP courses that run year-long. In May you will take a standardized exam evaluating your knowledge of and skills in the discipline, graded on a scale of 1 to 5. Many colleges award credit for scores of 3, 4 or 5 on the AP exam in certain subjects.
  - b. Dual Enrollment is an option for high school students to enroll in eligible courses at local public or private college and classes are semester long. Students typically take the course virtually or drive to campus and attend class every week outside of regular high school hours. Credit for the course is often transferrable, but it's important to check with your colleges of interest.
  - c. Many colleges will accept AP or dual enrollment credit, but generally speaking, AP is often preferred. This is particularly true for highly selective colleges and universities.
8. Are these classes graded differently?
  - a. Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement (AP) grades are weighted and given an additional 1 point added value (for example, you receive a B in the class. In a non weighted class, this would count as 3 points in your GPA. In a weighted (AP or dual enrollment) class, it counts as 4 points. The B still shows up on your

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transcript). Byron Center High School teachers grade AP courses and college professors will grade students in the dual enrollment courses.

9. How do I know if my student is ready for an AP class?
  - a. Taking an AP course is an individual student decision. We encourage students to review the prerequisites for classes they are interested in to see if they meet the requirements. Students should also talk to their subject area teacher for input. Then we encourage students to pursue advanced classes if they are interested in the content and feel that they can manage the additional challenge, rigor, and time commitment.
  - b. The list of students requesting an AP class will also need department approval.
10. Does a student have to take an Honors or AP class in order to take the next in the sequence? For example, Honors World History before AP US History?
  - a. While taking an advanced course in the prior year can help the student be prepared for rigorous coursework, all of our advanced courses allow students to enroll that did not take an advanced course the prior year. Students do need to meet the prerequisites and requirements of the course.
11. How many AP classes can/should a student take?
  - a. BCHS does not limit the number of AP classes a student can take. If a student meets the prerequisites and requirements to take the course, they are allowed to sign up. However, we strongly encourage students to pursue AP classes that are an area of interest or career.

## **Honors Courses**

12. Do honors courses affect the GPA differently?
  - a. Honors courses are not weighted and will impact the GPA the same as other non-honors courses.
13. For honors class, is the B+ requirement a year-end grade or required for all four marking periods?
  - a. B+ or higher must be earned each semester
  - b. For additional information on honors courses, please see the curriculum guide for Honors English 9, Honors English 10, Honors World History and Honors Algebra 2.

## **KCTC**

14. What is KCTC?
  - a. KCTC is the Kent Career Tech Center, which is part of the Kent ISD. KCTC offers a range of hands-on programs for students in grades 11 and 12. More information can be found [here](#).
15. How do I apply for KCTC?
  - a. Applications for KCTC will be available in the counseling office and you may see your counselor for more information. Students should plan to attend a program visit in the fall/winter of their sophomore year and then complete the application (deadlines will be communicated to students during scheduling and it's usually in March). Applications are submitted by the counselors directly to KCTC and we are notified in May who has been given a placement. Not all students that apply to KCTC will receive a spot.

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## **Math Placement**

1. How are math placements determined?
  - a. The math department looks at a variety of data, including past performance in math and current ability level in order to determine the best possible placement for students the following year.
2. What if I do not agree with my student's math placement or want my student to take a different course?
  - a. The first step would be a conversation with your student to ensure you both are in agreement about what they want to do. Next, contact the student's current math teacher and School Counselor for more information.

## **PE Requirements**

3. How do you receive a waiver for the PE requirement?
  - a. A student that participates in two seasons of a qualifying sport is eligible for a PE waiver. Students can pick up the waiver form in the Counseling Office. Two seasons of two different sports does meet the waiver requirement.
  - b. Completing two seasons of Byron Center Marching Band
4. Does the PE Waiver replace the Health requirement?
  - a. The PE Waiver only waives the Physical Education requirement. Health is still required for all students to graduate.
5. What sports are considered Bulldog Power sports?
  - a. All BCHS sports count with the exception of Bowling and Equestrian.

## **Summer School**

6. What courses are offered in the summer?
  - a. BCHS does not offer summer courses for credit advancement. Students can view the options available through [MySchool@Kent](mailto:MySchool@Kent) or [Michigan Virtual High School](http://MichiganVirtualHighSchool).
  - b. BCHS does not recommend that students complete summer classes before entering high school.
  - c. Students are responsible for checking with their high school counselor to ensure the credit will be transferred.
  - d. Students are not guaranteed placement in a higher level course after completing a prerequisite in summer school.
  - e. Students requiring credit recovery will be contacted directly about summer school options through BCHS and Myschool@Kent.

## **World Language**

1. Are languages other than Spanish and German available?
  - a. Students may have the option to take other languages online beginning in their sophomore year. Two years of the same World Language are required to graduate.
2. Does my language class from Middle School count?
  - a. Students can count one year of middle school world language in many cases. This is true for all students taking Spanish or German at WMS.
3. I heard I can count my visual, performing or applied art credit as a World Language requirement?

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- a. The state of Michigan allows students to substitute 1 credit in CTE or VPAA for the 2nd year World Language Requirement. This means students *can* complete another credit of visual, performing or applied art in addition to the one credit already required for a high school diploma.
  - i. This must be approved by your counselor and parent/guardian to ensure it aligns with your career pathway.
- a. If you are college bound, the best solution is to take at least 2 years of a single world language. Colleges strongly recommend, if not require, at least two years of a single world language. Some colleges require or highly recommend 3 or 4 years of a world language. Please see your counselor for more information.

## **Scheduling Process and Timeline**

7. How do students schedule their classes?
  - a. Detailed information will be shared with students and families at the start of the scheduling process (typically February). Students schedule their courses through their PowerSchool account. It must be done on the student account.
8. How do students know what classes to choose?
  - a. Students are provided with a copy of their transcript, the graduation requirements, a four year plan and a graduation audit, as well as several other documents. All of these resources are intended to assist students with scheduling their requirements as well as electives. Additional information can be found on the [High School Counseling Department website](#).
  - b. Students are encouraged to take 4-5 core courses per year and also pursue an area of interest.
  - c. Schedule requests are also reviewed by departments and counselors to ensure students are signing up for the classes they need for graduation.
  - d. Please note that the courses selected in PowerSchool during this process are *requests* and not guaranteed, which is why 2 credits of alternate requests are also required.
  - e. Courses selected as an alternate may be chosen so be sure you are comfortable taking the courses you select as an alternate.
9. What if students have questions?
  - a. Counselors are available during each flex in the months of February and March to talk to students about scheduling and their individual questions.
  - b. Juniors can anticipate an individual meeting with their counselor about their senior scheduling and postsecondary planning options.
10. How do parents know what their student signed up for?
  - a. While scheduling is intended to be a student led process, we encourage families to be involved! We strongly encourage students to talk over their choices with their parents.
  - b. Parents are also required to sign the AP Contract if a student is signing up for an AP class.
  - c. An email is sent to students and families in May asking them to review their schedule requests one final time and send their counselor any changes.
11. What if a student changes their mind about their schedule?

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- a. Once the email is sent in May for a final schedule review, and the deadline passes, schedules are considered final. Any extenuating circumstances a student has regarding their schedule should be communicated by the student to their counselor as soon as possible.
12. Can a student change their schedule in August or September and/or after the first semester?
  - a. No. The master schedule is built around the requests students make in the prior spring and due to the complexity of this, we consider schedules to be final when students receive them at registration. If a student feels they are misplaced in a core content area, they should communicate that with their counselor within the first three days of school. Students cannot drop year long classes or make semester changes without extenuating circumstances.
13. How thorough should I be when selecting my course requests?
  - a. The Master Schedule is created based on student requests (number of sections, teacher schedules, etc) so it is very important that you are selecting the correct courses for yourself.
  - b. Anything selected as a request in PowerSchool may be added to your schedule. Be confident in your course requests.

## **Scheduling for Senior year**

14. Do I have to take 6 classes if I have already met my requirements?
  - a. Yes. Seniors are required to be enrolled full time regardless of their credit status. Students can apply to participate in programs such as KCTC and School to Career for part of the day if they are on track to graduate.
15. Nothing interests me. How can I fill up my schedule?
  - a. Counselors encourage students to explore a variety of classes that they are interested in, in addition to classes that match their career interest or future plans. Please reach out to your counselor if you would like assistance finding courses that help you in your next step.