



Getting Schooled  
for Success at BHS

# Graduation Requirements for BHS (Magic Number to Graduate = 26 Credits)

- 4 English credits
  - 3 Social Studies credits\*
  - 4 Math credits
  - 4 Science credits
  - 1 Fine Arts credit
  - 1 Athletic/PE credit
  - 2 Languages Other than English Credits (in the same language)
  - 1 Professional Communication/Teen Leadership credit (local requirement)
  - 6 Elective credits
  - Student must complete four or more credits in an endorsement area
- \*A multidisciplinary endorsement requires four social studies credits



# Endorsements Possible at BHS

Business and Industry	Public Services	Arts and Humanities	STEM	Multidisciplinary 4X4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ag Mechanics</li> <li>• Animal Science</li> <li>• Ag Studies</li> <li>• Business, Finance &amp; Marketing</li> <li>• Graphic Design &amp; Animation</li> <li>• English/Electives with Debate</li> <li>• English/Electives with Advanced English</li> <li>• Automotive Technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education &amp; Training</li> <li>• Sports Medicine</li> <li>• Cosmetology*</li> <li>• Health Sciences**</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Languages</li> <li>• Performing Arts (Theater, Band, or Choir)</li> <li>• Visual Arts</li> <li>• Languages Other Than English (LOTE)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Science</li> <li>• Advanced Math</li> <li>• Computer Science</li> <li>• STEM Studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four credits in each of the four core areas</li> <li>• Four credits via dual credit in core areas, LOTE, and fine arts</li> </ul>

# Required State Assessments to Graduate

- STAAR English 1 End of Course Exam
- STAAR English 2 End of Course Exam
- STAAR Algebra 1 End of Course Exam
- STAAR Biology End of Course Exam
- STAAR U.S. History End of Course Exam



**Students must pass all five exams  
to earn a diploma in the State of Texas.**

# How Important Are My Grades at BHS?

- Grades in almost every class factor into your Grade Point Average (GPA) (Classes excluded from GPA: athletics/PE, band, summer school, local credits, etc.)
- Your grades determine your class rank upon graduation.
- Class rank is one of the key factors colleges look at when making admissions decisions.
- Scholarship committees look at your overall academic performance.
- Membership in certain clubs at BHS use grades as one of the membership criteria.
- Not focusing on grades as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader can “tank” your GPA. It’s hard for GPA to recover if you wait to get serious about grades as an upperclassman.

# Impact of Class Rank/GPA on Future Plans

Senior A	Senior B
Fifty-two semesters of course work (All As and Bs with one C—a 79)	Fifty-two semesters of course work (All As and Bs)
One semester of a weighted course (dual credit math)	Twenty-one semester of dual credit/honors courses)
Class Rank: Number 46	Class Rank: Number 9
Still in Top 50% of class—but barely	Top 10%
Got accepted into college late in the spring—Had to wait on admissions decisions	Accepted into one of the most prestigious universities in the state early in the fall of senior year

# Typical 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Schedule at BHS

- English 1 (regular or honors)
- Algebra 1 (regular) or Geometry (regular or honors if Algebra 1 taken in 8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Integrated Physics and Chemistry (if recommended by 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher) or Biology (regular or honors)
- Political Science (regular or honors)
- Professional Communication/Teen Leadership (Brock requirement)
- Athletics, PE, or Marching Band (two years of Marching Band = PE)
- Principles Class to begin an endorsement
- Fine Arts or Elective class

# What if I Want to Change my Schedule?

- **Before School Starts:** on the back of your schedule is a schedule change form. Turn in by August 9<sup>th</sup> with a parent signature to BHS front office.
- **After the first day of school:** schedule change request can be turned in until August 23<sup>rd</sup>. All schedule changes must be completed by the counselor before the 9<sup>th</sup> day of school as per state law.
- **Changing from an honors class to a regular class** can happen at any point in the year **AFTER** you and your parent have conferenced with a teacher.



# Personal Graduation Plans

- State law requires that all 9<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents develop a personal graduation plan upon advising with the counselor.
- At some point this year, Ms. Fields will meet with you and a parent to talk about your four-year plan for graduation and a coherent sequence of courses to take while you are at Brock High School, including what endorsement you want to pursue.
- Your four-year plan is flexible and can be updated later in your high school career.

# **BHS Counselor Contact Information**

**Nita Fields**

**Brock High School Counselor**

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