



1980 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94704  
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[bhs.berkeleyschools.net](http://bhs.berkeleyschools.net)

## Welcome to Berkeley High School

This year is Berkeley High's 135th as an accredited high school. We have roughly 3,200 students and over 280 teachers, counselors, and support staff.

### **Staying informed: The BHS E-tree**

The Etree is an essential source of information about orientation, school events, sports, the Student Daily Bulletin, the College Advisors' Bulletin, messages from the Principal, volunteer opportunities, and more. Please watch for postings with the subject line: **Incoming Families**. To subscribe to the BHS Etree, send an email to [bhs-request@lmi.net](mailto:bhs-request@lmi.net) with the word *subscribe* in the subject line.

### **Admission Process for All Incoming BHS students**

Families who did not submit a complete registration packet by January 12th will not be assigned to a 9th grade house or receive a class schedule until their documents are processed. If you **missed the January 12th deadline**, you must register/re-register between **March 26, 2018 - April 20, 2018** at the BUSD Admissions Office. For further information, call the Admissions Office at 510-644-6504 or check the Admissions Office website:

[www.berkeleyschools.net/departments/berkeley-school-admissions/enrolling-new-high-school-students/](http://www.berkeleyschools.net/departments/berkeley-school-admissions/enrolling-new-high-school-students/)

### **Learn more about Performing Arts**

Tuesday, 2/20 @ 7-8:15 pm.

**Performing Arts Department Info Night** in the Florence Schwimley Little Theater, entrance on Allston Way. Music, Dance, and Drama Departments will host this event for incoming families

## Course Selection

### **Continuing BUSD Students:**

There will be a parent meeting at your child's middle school from 6-7 pm. These meetings will be conducted by BHS administrators and are for parents from BUSD middle schools only. There will be a simultaneous Spanish language session with the same information. During the school days following the parent meeting, BHS counselors will go to the middle schools to gather course requests from students via an online form. **BHS will mail home the student selections for final review and families/guardians will have one week to request changes by hardcopy to BHS.**

### ❖ Longfellow Families

Parent Info Night at Longfellow, Monday, 2/26 @ 6-7 pm

Presentation to Students at Longfellow - Tuesday, 2/27 All Day

Student Online Registration with BHS Counselors at Longfellow - Thursday, 3/1 & Friday, 3/2

❖ King Families

Parent Info Night at King, Monday, 3/12 @ 6-7pm

Presentation to Students Tuesday at King Tuesday, 3/13 All Day

Student Online Registration with BHS Counselors at King - Thursday, 3/15 & Friday, 3/16

❖ Willard Families

Parent Info Night at Willard, Monday, 3/5 @ 6-7pm

Presentation to Students Tuesday at Willard - Tuesday, 3/6 All Day

Willard Online Student Registration with BHS Counselors - Thursday, 3/8 & Friday, 3/9

**NEW-to-BUSD Students only:**

**Course Selection:**

New-to-BUSD students who have completed the admission process by the January 12th deadline can make their course requests in the BHS Library on the following three evenings from **6-7:30 pm**.

Monday, 2/26 @ 6-7:30pm -- Last Name **A-L**

Monday, 3/5 @ 6-7:30pm -- Last Name **M-Z**

Monday, 3/12 @ 6-7:30pm -- **Makeup Session**

Please try to attend during your allotted time. If you cannot make your assigned night, we will accommodate you in one of the three sessions. **BHS will mail home the student selections for final review and families/guardians will have one week to request changes by hardcopy to BHS.**

**Placement Assessments**

**World Language:** BHS offers Spanish, French, Kiswahili, Mandarin, and Latin.

❖ If you are *currently enrolled in BUSD* you will be placed in level 2 if you are taking a language class in your middle school (Spanish or French). If you would like to be placed at a higher level, you should take the placement test.

❖ If you are *new to BUSD* and want to be in a language class above level 1, you will also need to take the language placement test.

The World Language test will be offered to Saturday April 28, 2018 at 10 am at BHS in the M-Building. If you are unable to attend in April, we will also offer the placement test in August 2018, date to be determined. Please email [beatrizferrercastro@berkeley.net](mailto:beatrizferrercastro@berkeley.net) with questions.

**Math Placement:** The majority of BHS students will be placed in Math 1, covering algebra, geometry, probability and statistics. Some students may test into an accelerated version of Math 1.

❖ If you are *currently enrolled in BUSD* you will take the placement test at your school in April 24, 2018.

❖ If you are *new to BUSD* and are interested in taking the test for Advanced Math 1, you will take the exam at the BHS library at 3 pm on May 1, 2018.

The test will be approximately 1 hour. Additional time for students who receive accommodations will be provided. Please email documentation of accommodations to [feliciaphillips@berkeley.net](mailto:feliciaphillips@berkeley.net).

## Incoming 9th Grader Course Selection: *Frequently Asked Questions*

### African American Studies

#### Frequently Asked Questions

**Why is it important to take an African American Studies (AFAM) course?**

The African American Studies program is an interdepartmental and interdisciplinary study of the history, culture, and socio-economic well-being of African-Americans. If your student is Black, these courses will help instill within them a stronger sense of self-identity, purpose, and cultural belonging. If your student is not Black, these courses will prepare your student to effectively engage in cross-cultural understanding, dialogue, and community - an ever more important skill in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**How can these courses help my student succeed?**

These courses all meet the A-G course requirements, including graduation requirement classes such as English, Economics, Performing Arts, Physical Education and History/Social Science. They are rigorous, challenging, fascinating, critical, and engaging. It's a positive space for all students. African American Studies is excellent preparation for law, politics, public policy, teaching, or business, as well as graduate or professional school.

**How do I enroll in an African American Studies course?**

Students will have the opportunity to sign up during course enrollment.

#### Where to Go with Additional Questions

Naomi Diouf (510-644-6759; [naomiwashingtondio@berkeley.net](mailto:naomiwashingtondio@berkeley.net))  
Department Teacher Leader

Felicia Phillips ([feliciaphillips@berkeley.net](mailto:feliciaphillips@berkeley.net))  
Vice Principal

### Inclusive Education

#### Frequently Asked Questions

**I am currently at a BUSD school. How can I get information about my student's transition to Berkeley High School?**

Each Spring, a Berkeley High School representative meets with students and families at each BUSD middle school. During this meeting, you will be able to find out how your child's special education needs will be met at Berkeley High. Additionally, all 8th graders and their case managers will be invited to come for a school tour.

**If I am new to BUSD, what next steps should I take to transition my IEP to BHS?**

Make sure to indicate on the BHS enrollment form that your student has an IEP. You should bring a copy of the IEP to BHS and put it in Susannah Bell's office mailbox, as well as email Susannah Bell to let her know that your child has an IEP and is new to BUSD.

**Will there be services for students with IEPs in the new Universal Ninth Grade?**

All ninth graders with IEPs will still be able to receive support, including case management.

## Where to Go with Additional Questions

Eileen Jacobs ([eileenjacobs@berkeley.net](mailto:eileenjacobs@berkeley.net))  
Department Teacher Leader

Susannah Bell Fishman (510-644-8988; [susannahbell@berkeley.net](mailto:susannahbell@berkeley.net))  
Special Education Program Manager

## Math

### Frequently Asked Questions

Please see the Math Department Website for more information, including the course progression:  
<https://sites.google.com/berkeley.net/mathematicsdepartment>

#### **What are the math options for 9th graders?**

Most students will be in Math 1 and a small number will be in Advanced Math 1. Students interested in Advanced Math 1 must take a placement exam. There is no math placement offered for 9th graders above these two courses.

#### **What content is covered in Math 1 and Advanced Math 1?**

Math 1 is interconnected algebra, geometry, and statistics. Students will gain a deeper understanding of algebraic manipulations and functions, as well as use transformational and coordinate geometry and begin work with matrices and vectors. Math 1 is the first in the sequence of Math 1, Math 2, and Math 3. Advanced Math 1 is an accelerated version of Math 1 going into Math 2 during the 9th grade year; it is also the first in a sequence that continues into Advanced Math 2 and Advanced Math 3.

#### **How are students placed into their math courses?**

Every student is automatically placed into Math 1. Students can then take an test in April of 8th grade to place into Advanced Math 1. The placement test includes the Grade 8 Common Core Standards.

#### **Can you test into Advanced Math 2 if you are not in Advanced Math 1?**

Yes, there is a process in the Spring of 9th grade for students who want to transition into Advanced Math 2 for their 10th grade year.

#### **What courses must a student take in 9th grade to be on-track to take Calculus by senior year?**

Students taking either Math 1 or Advanced Math 1 will be on-track to take Calculus in their senior year.

#### **What resources does the math department offer for students who are struggling?**

The Math Department offers free tutoring Monday through Thursday from 3:30 - 4:30pm (thanks to the Development Group!). We also have a support website with helpful videos and notes for each module.

## Where to Go with Additional Questions

Nakia Baird ([nakiabaird@berkeley.net](mailto:nakiabaird@berkeley.net)) or Kate Garfinkel ([kategarfinkel@berkeley.net](mailto:kategarfinkel@berkeley.net))  
Department Teacher Co-Leaders

Felicia Phillips ([feliciaphillips@berkeley.net](mailto:feliciaphillips@berkeley.net))  
Vice Principal

# Newcomer Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the Newcomer Program?**

The Berkeley High School Newcomer Program prepares students from around the world for academic success and to meaningfully engage in and contribute to the BHS community. The program includes academic English skill acquisition, communication and engagement with families, and leadership development. Students in the newcomer classes prepare to transition into regular classes as quickly as possible while they earn the credits they need to graduate.

### **Who is a Newcomer?**

Newcomers are new immigrants who have been in the U.S. for 5 years or fewer, and are not proficient in English language.

### **How does my student transition to Berkeley High School?**

During the Spring of 8th grade, the Newcomer Academic Counselor, Bilingual Home School Liaison and Program Coordinator meet with newcomer students and their teachers at MLK Jr. Middle School to place students. For further questions, parents and students are invited to meet with a representative at our Newcomer office via appointment. Please see contact information below.

### **Can my student attend the Newcomer Program part-time?**

No. This program-within-a-school is full-day and serves only the students in Berkeley High School. Instruction consists of two English classes on a block schedule and, typically, three subject matter SDAIE classes. Newcomers also have one class with mainstream students, usually P.E. or an elective class.

## Where to Go with Additional Questions

Patricia Stewart (510-644-6949; [patriciastewart@berkeley.net](mailto:patriciastewart@berkeley.net))  
Bilingual Home School Liaison

Marcela Taylor ([marcelataylor@berkeley.net](mailto:marcelataylor@berkeley.net))  
Newcomer Program Coordinator

Tonia Coleman ([toniacoleman@berkeley.net](mailto:toniacoleman@berkeley.net))  
Vice Principal

# Physical Education

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What PE classes are available at BHS?**

There are an array of PE classes available at BHS. Please refer to the course catalogue to find out more. Dance classes at BHS also count for PE credit.

### **How can my child earn PE credit at BHS?**

There are 3 ways to earn PE credit. First, take PE courses offered at BHS. Second, participate in BHS sports (1 season = 1 semester). Third, PE waivers, in which students participate in 5 hours/week of structured athletic activities outside of school. We highly recommend students pursue the first or second options, as PE waivers require high levels of organization and every year students fail to meet their requirements.

### **How can I learn more about PE waivers?**

Please contact Vice Principal Juan Raygoza for information regarding PE waivers. He can provide you with all of the necessary details.

### **Are students required to wear a PE uniform?**

Students are required to wear athletic clothes with athletic footwear, but are not required to wear a specific uniform. Students are allowed 5 minutes to dress in the locker rooms at the beginning and end of class. "Intro to Fitness" is the one class in which students do not have to change into athletic attire.

## Where to Go with Additional Questions

John Anderson ([johnanderson@berkeley.net](mailto:johnanderson@berkeley.net))  
Department Teacher Leader

Tonia Coleman ([toniacoleman@berkeley.net](mailto:toniacoleman@berkeley.net))  
Vice Principal (over PE Department)

Juan Raygoza ([juanraygoza@berkeley.net](mailto:juanraygoza@berkeley.net))  
Vice Principal (over PE waivers)

## Science

### Frequently Asked Questions

**What is Physics 1?**

Physics 1 is a year-long, college preparatory, algebra-based laboratory course that introduces the fundamental concepts and laws of physics. This course is based on the Next Generation Science Standards and is designed to help students construct an understanding of both physics concepts and the mathematical foundations of the physical world. This inquiry-driven program is tightly aligned with the 9th grade Common Core Math 1 course, reinforcing the math concepts covered.

**What is the math requirement for Physics 1?**

Concurrent enrollment in Math 1 (or Advanced Math 1).

**What science class do students take after Physics 1?**

Most 10th grade students at BHS will take Chemistry (or AP Chemistry). 10th grade students in CAS and AHA take Honors Anatomy as part of their required science sequence.

**Are there advanced Physics classes?**

All students will enroll in Physics 1.

### Where to Go with Additional Questions

Colleen Simon-O'Neill ([colleensimononeill@berkeley.net](mailto:colleensimononeill@berkeley.net)) or Glenn Wolkenfeld ([glennwolkenfeld@berkeley.net](mailto:glennwolkenfeld@berkeley.net))  
Department Teacher Co-Leaders

Allen Boltz ([allenboltz@berkeley.net](mailto:allenboltz@berkeley.net))  
Science Department Administrator

## Visual and Performing Arts

### Frequently Asked Questions

**What Arts courses are available to 9th graders at BHS?**

There are so many arts opportunities at BHS, including Drawing, Ceramics, Photography, Digital Photo, Creative Arts, Dramatic Arts, Beginning Modern/Jazz Dance, Production/Acting, African Haitian Dance, Computer Arts, Art of Video Production, Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band (audition-only).

**Does dance class count as PE or Art credit?**

Either! Students can take several years of dance classes, and designate each year as EITHER credit towards PE or Arts requirements. For example: A student takes Beginning Modern Dance 9th grade as PE credit, African Dance 11th grade as Arts credit, then Dance Production 12th grade as PE credit.

**Can I sign up for advanced level courses?**

In MOST cases, the answer is NO. Many of the beginning courses are really mixed level classes, appropriate for students with some experience as well as students who are new to the art. The course catalog will let you know what prerequisites are required and when a student may audition into an advanced course.

## Where to Go with Additional Questions

Kimberley D'Adamo ([kimberleydadamo@berkeley.net](mailto:kimberleydadamo@berkeley.net))  
Department Teacher Leader

Carrie Berg ([carrieberg@berkeley.net](mailto:carrieberg@berkeley.net))  
Vice Principal

## World Language

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is the placement process for World Languages?**

BUSD middle school students that are currently enrolled in language classes will be placed through their middle school program. They will be in Level 1 if starting a new language. All students new to BUSD must take the placement test to be in any language class that is higher than Level 1.

#### **Should a 9th grader take a foreign language or wait until 10th grade?**

Students can decide when to take foreign language courses. 9th graders can take foreign language courses or wait until 10th grade to still satisfy their high school graduation requirements. It should be noted that many colleges prefer students have 3 or more years of a language.

#### **How do I decide which language to study?**

BHS offers 5 languages - Spanish, French, Mandarin, Latin, and Kiswahili. Each offer a range of courses that across multiple years can prepare students for proficiency. You need to decide what interests you in languages and what you hope to gain from their study.

#### **What is Spanish for Native Speakers?**

This course is for Spanish speakers with home experience speaking Spanish, though with no formal reading and writing experience. Students that come from a dual immersion program will be placed in SNS1. Students from a dual immersion program into SNS1 have the opportunity to test out of SNS1; they would then be placed in SNS3.

#### **Why study Latin? Is it a dead language? Is it useful?**

People all over the world have been writing, reading, and even speaking Latin continually since the 7th century BC. This represents an unbroken literary tradition lasting almost three millennia! Because the technical language of almost every specialized field is mostly Latin-derived, studying Latin will help students improve their content knowledge and ability to communicate in any career they decide to pursue.

## Where to Go with Additional Questions

Beatriz Ferrer-Castro ([beatrizferrercastro@berkeley.net](mailto:beatrizferrercastro@berkeley.net))  
Department Teacher Leader

Tonia Coleman ([toniacoleman@berkeley.net](mailto:toniacoleman@berkeley.net))  
Vice Principal





