

# Berkeley High School Fall 2021 Information Night

## Incoming 9th Grade, Course Selection - Frequently Asked Questions

### INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

**I am currently at a BUSD school. How can I get information about my student’s transition to BHS?**

Each Spring, a BHS 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 BHS. 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 Eileen Jacobs’s office mailbox, as well as email Eileen Jacobs to let her know that your child has an IEP and is new to BUSD. See below for Ms. Jacobs’s contact information.

**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. This will be discussed at the transition meeting in the Spring.

**Where to Go with Additional Questions:**

Alyssa Lund, [alyssalund@berkeley.net](mailto:alyssalund@berkeley.net), Program Supervisor  
Eileen Jacobs [eileenjacobs@berkeley.net](mailto:eileenjacobs@berkeley.net), Special Education Program Manager

### MATH

Please see the Math Department Website for more information, including the course progression:  
[www.BerkeleyHighMath.com](http://www.BerkeleyHighMath.com)

**What are the Math options for 9th graders?**

Math 1 and Advanced Math 1. Most students will be in Math 1 and a small number will be in Advanced Math 1. Students who are 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 in their math courses?**

Every student is automatically placed into Math 1. Students can take a placement test in April of 8th grade to place into Advanced Math 1. The test will include topics and skills covered in 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade common core math. This means that previous coursework must include familiarity with both Algebra and Geometry topics.

**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 - 4:30 pm (thanks to the Development Group!). We also have a support website with helpful videos and notes for each module. [www.BerkeleyHighMath.com](http://www.BerkeleyHighMath.com)

**Where to Go with Additional Questions:**

Kiernan Rok, [kiernanrok@berkeley.net](mailto:kiernanrok@berkeley.net), Vice Principal

**MULTILINGUAL PROGRAM**

**What is the Multilingual Program?**

The Berkeley High School Multilingual Program prepares English Learner Newcomer students from around the world for academic success and to meaningfully engage in and contribute to the BHS community and beyond. The program includes academic English skill acquisition, communication, leadership development, and engagement with families. Students in the Multilingual Program prepare to transition into mainstream

classes as smoothly and quickly as possible while they earn the credits they need to graduate and to meet college admission requirements.

### **Who are the students in the Multilingual Program?**

The students in the Multilingual Program are English Learner Newcomer students. In other words, students who have been enrolled in U.S. public schools for less than 6 years, and are not fully proficient in the English language yet.

### **How does my student transition to BHS?**

During the Spring of 8th grade, the Multilingual Academic Counselor, Bilingual Home School Liaison and Program Coordinator meet with students and their teachers at MLK Jr. Middle School in order to determine their placement based on the students' ELPAC scores, academic performance, teacher evaluation, and parent opinion. For further questions, parents and students are invited to meet with the Multilingual Program Coordinator or Bilingual Home School Liaison by appointment. Please see the contact information below.

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

No. This program-within-a-school is full-day and serves only BHS students. Instruction consists of two English Language Development (ELD) classes on a block schedule and, typically, three subject matter college preparatory Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) classes. Students in the Multilingual Program also have one class with mainstream students, usually P.E. or an elective class.

### **Where to Go with Additional Questions**

Teri Goodman ([terigoodman@berkeley.net](mailto:terigoodman@berkeley.net)), Academic Counselor  
Daniella Maaze ([daniellamaaze@berkeley.net](mailto:daniellamaaze@berkeley.net)) Multilingual Program Coordinator  
Tonia Coleman ([toniacoleman@berkeley.net](mailto:toniacoleman@berkeley.net)), Vice Principal

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

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

There are an array of PE classes available at BHS. Please refer to the [Course Catalog](#) 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 Tammy Rose for information regarding PE waivers. She 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

Tammy Rose ([tammyrose@berkeley.net](mailto:tammyrose@berkeley.net)), Vice Principal (over PE Department)

**SCIENCE**

**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**

Vicki Augustine [victoriaaugustine@berkeley.net](mailto:victoriaaugustine@berkeley.net), HIVE Lead Teacher

Mat Glaser [matglaser@berkeley.net](mailto:matglaser@berkeley.net), HIVE Lead Teacher

Aman Watson, [amanwatson@berkeley.net](mailto:amanwatson@berkeley.net), Science Department Administrator

## VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

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

There are many arts opportunities at BHS, including Drawing, Ceramics, Film Photography, Digital Photography, Creative Arts, Dramatic Arts, Beginning Modern/Jazz Dance, Drama Production/Acting, African Haitian Dance, Computer Arts, Art of Video Production, Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band (audition-only). Please refer to the [Course Catalog](#) to find out more.

**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**

Gabriel Berent ([gabrielberent@berkeley.net](mailto:gabrielberent@berkeley.net)), Department Teacher Leader

Harrison Blatt ([harrisonblatt@berkeley.net](mailto:harrisonblatt@berkeley.net)), Vice Principal

## WORLD LANGUAGE

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

Students who have completed two years of a language in middle school will be placed in Level 2. They will be in Level 1 if starting a new language. If students would like to place into Level 3, they will need to take the placement exam offered in the spring or the first week of school.

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

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

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

BHS offers 4 languages - Spanish, French, Mandarin, and Latin. We offer a range of courses up to AP levels in all four languages. Choosing a language depends on your personal interests, travel opportunities, and potential career goals.

### What is Spanish for Native Speakers?

This course is for Spanish speakers with home experience speaking Spanish, with minimal formal reading and writing experience. Students that come from a dual immersion program will be placed in SNS2, unless their higher proficiency is demonstrated through a placement test. In such cases, students will be placed in SNS 3. Students from a dual immersion program into SNS2 have the opportunity to test out of SNS2; 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

Susi Lopez ([susilopez@berkeley.net](mailto:susilopez@berkeley.net)) Department Teacher Leader

Denise Fullerton ([denisefullerton@berkeley.net](mailto:denisefullerton@berkeley.net)) Department Teacher Leader

## CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION CLASSES FOR 9TH GRADE

### **Robotics Engineering (g) (CTE)**

The robotics class is a hands-on project-based course designed to develop students' creativity and technological savvy through the process of building, programming and operating robots designed to perform specific tasks. The course begins with simple experiments involving sensors and motors. More-complicated tasks involve building integrated prototype devices that collect data using sensors, process this data using computer-language code (Robot C) and execute tasks via computer-controlled motorized manipulation of simple machines. Students are responsible for developing devices in teams and communicating the reasons why they chose a particular method for achieving their team's goals. This will be done in various ways, including maintaining an engineering notebook, designing websites/blogs/posters and making presentations. The course fosters cooperative interaction and emphasizes the social and real-world application of technical enterprise.

**Prerequisites** - None

### **Stagecraft: Entertainment Technician**

UCOP College-Preparatory Elective ("g") (CTE) Visual and Performing Arts This Entertainment Technician course introduces and develops students in four departments of entertainment technician expertise; Rigging, Carpentry, Lighting, and Audio-Video. The course concentrates on fundamental and advanced elements of expertise entertainment technicians must have to succeed and thrive in the broad industry of presenting Performing Arts in its many forms will foster a connection to the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE Local 107). Opportunity for Internships.

Class meets on Tuesday & Thursday 7th period with many many hours of evening and weekend "practicum" hours required throughout the school year.

### **Introduction to Computer Programming ("g") (CTE)**

This course includes an introduction to the Python computer programming language and an introduction to web programming using HTML, CSS, Javascript, and JQuery. Students will be able to create sophisticated websites, gain experience creating functions, conditionals and loops. Optional topics may include Computer Aided 3D design, 3D printing, robotics, or exploring other programming languages such as Ruby.