

GUIDELINES RELATED TO SCHEDULING

SENIOR PRIVILEGE AM/ SENIOR PRIVILEGE PM

Seniors who can meet ALL graduation requirements with a shortened schedule, and who have confirmation that personal transportation exists, may request Senior Privilege AM / Senior Privilege PM (formerly Late Arrival and Early Release). Efforts will be made to schedule courses so that the requested Senior Privilege AM / Senior Privilege PM is facilitated; however, there is no guarantee that this will be possible. These options are noted on college transcripts. **Seniors must take a minimum of four (4) courses.**

HAP (HELP AND ACCESS PERIOD)

HAP is a non-credit study period that is required for all freshman and select sophomores. Freshmen who wish to take a Music HAP without acquiring credit may choose this option during course selection by notifying their Crossroads counselor. If students want to take Music HAP for credit, they must elect to do so through the Option II process. Music HAP is scheduled during the desired course (Chorus, String Orchestra, Concert Band, or Symphonic Band.) Juniors and seniors may elect HAP as one of their courses for either the year or a semester.

PREREQUISITES

In order to sign up for a course that has a prerequisite, students MUST meet ALL stated prerequisites at the time of course selection. Students who have not met the required prerequisites at the time of registration will not have these course requests added to their proposed schedules. Prerequisites are checked again at the end of the year, so final grades must be maintained in order to remain in a desired course. By the end of the fourth quarter, if a student's grade in a particular class has improved or no longer meets a prerequisite, the student must see their counselor by the end of the school year. If there is room in the appropriate class and the schedule can accommodate the request, the change may be made.

SUMMER COURSEWORK TOWARD PREREQUISITES

Students who plan to take summer course work to satisfy prerequisites must inform their counselors of this intention. An Option II application **MUST** be filed. Please follow all Option II guidelines and deadlines. However, their course selections will **not** reflect these plans, and there will be no guarantee that the desired course will be available at the end of the summer even if the prerequisite is met. Please be aware of the following:

- Students will not receive Honors or A.P. weighting for any classes taken outside of SBHS.
- Credit for a summer course will be issued by SBHS only if the student achieves both an 85% in the course as well as an 85% on the placement exam.
- In order to use an advancing (120 hour) summer course as a prerequisite for a math course, students must comply with the Math department's standards/procedures for use of summer school advancing coursework. Be sure you read the department section carefully.
- A summer online school remedial course (60 hrs.) can be used to make up credits for a course failed during the school year. Parents are responsible for all financial costs. The original course and grade remain on the transcript and the grade from summer school is also listed on the transcript and included in the GPA. Enrichment classes (60-100 hrs.) must be pre-approved in order to satisfy a prerequisite. No credit is given to enrichment work. Enrichment coursework and grades are listed on the transcript but not included in the GPA.

HONORS / ADVANCED PLACEMENT / COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES

These courses are designed to be very challenging in the level of material and concepts presented, the pace of the course, and the amount of work required. Advanced Placement (AP) courses require students to complete college level work and are considered to be our most rigorous courses.

In order to take these classes students must fulfill ALL entry requirements and **be fully committed to remaining in the course for the FULL school year.**

AP courses require an application and approval from the appropriate supervisor or teacher which is done during course selection. **For AP courses that require a summer assignment: Students are responsible for getting the summer assignments and materials from the appropriate teachers prior to the last week of school.** Failure to submit the completed summer assignment by the due date will result in removal from the class.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Students should take the course selection process very seriously. Before making course choices, students must be familiar with course descriptions and requirements. **Changing your selections after the fact will be very difficult, if at**

all possible. Before selections are finalized, counselors will review the choices, checking prerequisites and considering post-high school plans. **It is the students' responsibility to be familiar with qualifications for the courses they wish to take and their status regarding graduation requirements and college entrance requirements.**

Students may initiate a level change during the first two weeks of school. After this time, ALL changes must be initiated by teacher and approved by the department supervisor.

We encourage students to make the BEST decisions at time of registration and to make a serious commitment to the courses they originally select.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION: STATE AND DISTRICT

NJ HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY TESTING

PARCC

All students must pass the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

- English Language Arts (Reading + Writing)
- Mathematics

The PARCC Assessment will be administered during the spring of the freshman, sophomore, and junior year. If a student does not pass the PARCC Assessment in his or her freshman, sophomore or junior year, then an alternative assessment to meet the graduation requirement must be taken. In addition, students may be placed in a skills class to prepare for PARCC or an alternative assessment. Please refer to the school website for a complete listing of how students can satisfy their assessment graduation requirement.

End of Course State Examinations in Biology I.

All students taking first-level Biology courses are required to take the test at the end of the year. First level Biology courses include: General Biology, Biology I and Honors Biology I.

CREDIT REQUIREMENT

Students must earn 125 credits, of which 105 must come from the following required courses:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The New Jersey Department of Education is currently reviewing graduation requirements in several content areas that may result in the passing of an end of course examination.

English I, II, III, IV	4 years/20 credits
Social Studies	3 years/15 credits (Government & Economics/ U.S. History/Global Studies)
PE/Health	1 year (3.75 cards / 1.25 cards) for each year of high school; typically PE 9/Adol. Issues PE 10/Drivers Ed. PE 11/Adult Issues PE 12/Senior Health
Math	3 years/15 credits
Science	3 years/15 credits (a Physical Science, a Biological Science, and any other Science)
World Language	2 years/10 credits (of the same language)
Visual or Performing Art	1 year/5 credits (<i>see course listing on pg. 6</i>)
Financial Literacy	Semester/ 2.5 credits
21st Century Skills	1 year/5 credits

- All students must take and pass a Financial Literacy course, which at SBHS is Personal Financial Management.
- All students must take and pass a 5 credit 21st Century Skills course during 9th grade.
- **All students must take a Visual Arts course(formerly Fine and Performing Arts)**

OPTION II

A student may earn graduation credits through an alternate path called Option II. This non-traditional path enables a student to attain credits in order to graduate early, study topics that go beyond those offered at SBHS, pursue career or

personal interests, or open a schedule for other courses of study.

Option II comes with firm requirements. A student must complete an Option II application by the published due dates and must receive prior approval from the Principal's Credit Review Committee. All costs associated with Option II are the responsibility of the student and his/her family. There are also defined grade levels for each option along with some credit limitations.

The options open to SBHS students include the following: Advancing Courses, College Courses, Offsite High School Courses, Online Courses, Student Exchange Program, Music HAP, Independent Study, James Kimple Center Directed Study, Community Service, PE through Athletic Participation, World Language Demonstration of Proficiency for Heritage Speakers, and World Language through Offsite Study for languages not offered at SBHS.

A student interested in Option II can find detailed information on the District website in the "SBHS Pathways to Graduation Guidebook for Parents and Students" which includes the application and timeline. There is also an "Option II At-a-Glance" document that provides a brief overview of the program.

Important Note: An interested student will register for his/her courses in the traditional manner and then, following the published due dates, will apply for Option II. If approved, the student's schedule will be adjusted accordingly.

PREPARATION FOR EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AFTER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

In our modern work world, most high school graduates find it essential to continue their education and training beyond high school. The average annual income for individuals with an associate's degree is almost twice what someone with just a high school diploma can earn. The earnings for a bachelor's degree can be three times more. Post high school education and training may be attained in a variety of forms. Some students find that they can best meet their goals by attending a two year or four-year college. Others feel that a college program is not appropriate for their needs upon graduation. Regardless of your future goals, planning is essential. The following information should be considered as you select your courses:

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT / MILITARY

Students who plan to enter the job market as full-time employees after graduation need to have researched the skills required for entry level positions, and have a realistic expectation of the salaries, benefits, and opportunities for advancement that are available with these positions.

Since employment-bound students will need specific job skills, it is critical to take courses that prepare them accordingly. However, it is just as critical to build a solid background of skills in reading, writing, science, and mathematics.

Students who are considering the post high school goal of full-time employment should look into Middlesex County's Vocational-Technical High School system. Vocational-Technical schools provide intensive training in a variety of fields supported by study in related academic areas. Information about Vocational -Technical schools can be obtained from your guidance counselor.

Students interested in joining the Military should seek information about each branch of the service, discuss options with their counselors and meet with recruiters who come into the school. Taking the ASVAB, an aptitude test, is an integral part of the decision-making when various training opportunities within the service are considered.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION/TECHNICAL TRAINING

Many high school graduates enroll in trade, vocational, technical and business schools for one or two years before seeking employment. Others may go directly to work but continue their training as they work by enrolling in apprentice programs, business college courses, university extension courses, and public school community education courses available in the area.

Just as it is not wise to choose a college without counseling with people who know colleges, it is not wise to choose business or trade schools without complete information about them. The standing of the school with employers, a clear understanding of its costs and its programs, and the placement and follow-up services - all are factors in making an intelligent choice. Students interested in the above opportunities should consult with their counselors in developing plans for their future.

College

COMMUNITY/JUNIOR COLLEGE

Some students find that their plans to attend college are better fulfilled at a Community/Junior College. Community and Junior Colleges fall into two categories:

- colleges which generally do not provide housing (Community Colleges)
- colleges that usually have dormitory facilities (Junior Colleges)

Study at a Community/Junior College can lead to a certificate or an Associate's Degree in a specific career field, or it can be used as a stepping stone to a four-year college. Careful selection of and success in courses at the Community/Junior College allow students to transfer into four-year colleges as juniors, so that a Bachelor's degree can be earned after four years of study. Many Community/Junior Colleges have articulation agreements with four-year colleges so that students can transfer easily. Middlesex County College has articulation agreements with four-year colleges such as Rutgers, Penn State, Kean, and New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Generally, Community/Junior Colleges do not require 16 academic units, nor do they require SAT/ACT scores for admission. Depending upon the program of study, there may be specific course work required at the high school level, or special entrance tests for particular programs.

At many schools a Minimum Basic Skills Test is required for placement into college level courses. It is recommended that students research schools and programs of interest to them and consult with their counselors.

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE

Students planning to apply to four-year colleges will want to develop the strongest possible academic record. There is not one program that is right for everyone, but you should keep the following information in mind:

Admission to college is based on a picture of the applicant obtained from the examination of:

- The scholastic record (rigor of courses taken, final grades earned, grade point average, and number of academic units accrued)
- Results on college admissions tests, such as the ACT, SAT & SAT II (Subject Area Tests)
- Recommendations written on behalf of the student
- The quality, not quantity, of participation in extra-curricular school and community activities
- Personal interviews
- Content and presentation of the written application, including any required essays

As part of the high school record, colleges look for courses that are COLLEGE PREPARATORY in content and level of work required. Such courses are considered ACADEMIC UNITS. A total of sixteen units taken from grades 9-12 are generally the minimum required for college entrance. While each college prescribes the number and character of the academic units it will accept, the following are the usual requirements for entrance to four-year colleges:

English: 4 units	Social Studies: 3-5 units
College-prep math: 3-5 units	Foreign Language: 2-5 units (of the same language)
Science: 2-5 units (at least 2 lab sciences)	

SUGGESTED PROGRAMS OF STUDY FOR COLLEGE PLANNING

The following is a chart of suggested patterns of college-preparatory study and can be used to help in developing your four- year plan of courses. The content areas outlined are those in which colleges are looking for specific preparation. Since you will have ample opportunity for other course work, we encourage you to select from the wide array of offerings in the Art, Business, Industrial Technology, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Performing Arts areas. These courses will provide a well-rounded background for possible career and vocational interests.

NUMBER OF ACADEMIC UNIT COURSES RECOMMENDED

	Competitive College	Very Competitive College	Extremely Competitive College
English	4	4	4
Social Studies	3-4	4-5	4-5
College-Prep Math (Alg I, Geom, Alg II, etc)	3-4	4-5	4-5

Science (Lab Science)	2-4	3-5	3-6
Foreign Lang (same language)	2-4	3-4	3-5
Academic Units (minimum)	16-19	18-23	19-25

Two-year colleges (Community Colleges/Junior Colleges) do not require the same type or number of courses that four-year colleges require. However, some programs of study at two-year colleges may have specific requirements (e.g. Nursing at Middlesex County College requires that you have taken Lab Biology and Chemistry).

ACADEMIC UNITS – Explanation and Listing

Your post-high school plans will determine to a great extent which courses you will take in high school. Students who are planning to go to a four-year college should accrue a minimum of sixteen academic units before graduation. An academic unit is earned for completion of study in a year-long college-preparatory course. Students will want to present as strong an academic record as possible to prospective colleges. To help in planning, the courses which are generally accepted by colleges as academic units are listed here. Please refer to footnotes for clarification. *NOTE: Semester courses do not earn academic unit status.*

All Pathway to Business Classes (1)	Adv. Pre Calculus	Honors College Physics
Business and Criminal Law (1)	Trig & Algebraic Functions	A.P. Physics C
A.P. Economics (1)	Calculus	A.P. Physics B
English I, II, III, IV – all levels	A.P. Calculus – AB, BC	Sci. Appl. of Multi-Variable Calc.
Ancient Greek I & II	Honors Pre-AP Calculus	Sci. Appl. of Diff. Equa. & Comp. Anal. Analysis
Latin I, II, III, IV, V – all levels	A.P. Statistics	Global Studies – all levels
Spanish, IA, IIA, IIIA	Music Theory I (1)	*Holocaust & Genocide
Spanish I, II, III, IV, V	A.P. Music Theory (1)	Govt. & Economics – all levels
Honors / AP Spanish V	A.P. Art History (1)	IPLE I & II (1)
Spanish for Native Speakers I, II (1)	A.P. European History	Psychology
French I, II, III, IV, V – all levels	Physical & Earth Science	A.P. Psychology
Algebra I/Elements of Alg. I/Adv. Alg. I	Biology I	Military History and Strategy
Geom./Elem. of Geom./Adv. Geom.	Biology II	U.S. History - all levels
Alg.II/Adv. Alg. II	A.P. Biology	The Vietnam Era (1)
Hon. Alg. II./Elem. of Alg. II	Human Anatomy and Physiology	Race, Class & Gender in America (1)
Computer Prog./ Comp. Science II	Field Ecology & Animal Behavior	A.P. U.S. Govt. & Politics
A.P. Computer Science A	A.P. Environmental Science	A.P. Comp. Govt. & Politics
Discrete Math	Chemistry I-T/ Chemistry I-CC	American Justice (1)
Introduction to Statistics	Honors Chemistry I	
Preparation for College Math	A.P. Chemistry	
	Physics I-T/Physics I-A	
	Science & Society (1)	

- (1) Accepted as an academic unit by some colleges, but is not universally accepted.
- (2) Completion of these two course sequence yields one academic unit.
- (3) *After June 2016, these courses will not be eligible for ACADEMIC UNITS

NCAA Information

College-bound athletes need to be sure that they meet NCAA eligibility requirements by enrolling in the required number of authorized core courses. Although most of the courses listed as academic units qualify as eligible core courses, students should check with their counselors for NCAA information or go to NCAAClearinghouse.net to see which of our courses are authorized core courses. In addition, perspective athletes must meet GPA and SAT/ACT score requirements. The NCAA uses a sliding scale in regard to GPA and SAT scores. You can consult NCAAClearinghouse.net for further details.

College Admission Testing Information

PSAT

This exam is given once a year in October. ALL college-bound sophomores and juniors should register to take this test. This is a practice SAT I exam to acclimate the students to the SAT and to provide predictive information for SAT performance. It is also used by the National Merit Corporation to identify highly qualified juniors for recognition.

SAT

This is a three and one-half hour test, divided into three sections: Critical Reading, Writing and Mathematics. The scores range from 400-1600 in each section. It is recommended that students take the exam two or three times, two of which should be in their junior year.

ACT

This test is an alternative to the SAT. It can be taken during a student's junior and/or senior years. The ACT is divided into four parts: Math, English, Science Reasoning, Reading, and an optional Writing section. The student will receive a composite score from 1-36. Students with a solid course background and good grades are encouraged to take the ACT test as an alternative to or in addition to the SAT.

SAT II (Subject Tests)

Students applying to selective schools are required to take the SAT II subject area tests (usually three exams). Each test is one hour long so students can take one, two or three at one administration. Each subject score ranges from 200-800. Students taking advanced coursework in math or science in their freshman or sophomore years may wish to take the related exam; ask your teacher or counselor for more information (ex: a student taking AP Physics B in grade 9 or Honors Chemistry in grade 10 may wish to take the SAT II in that subject area). Most students take the SAT II subject tests at the end of their junior year or beginning of their senior year. You should consult your counselor for the timing of the test.

INCOMING FRESHMAN COURSE PLACEMENT

Incoming freshmen are placed into courses in the academic content areas of English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Language. These placements are made by the high school department supervisors based on, current middle school courses and grades, and middle school teacher input. Specific course level criteria and details about the placement process will be disseminated separately to incoming freshmen students with other course selection materials.

21st Century Skills Course Options

Incoming freshmen must select one of the courses listed below to meet the 21st Century Skills graduation requirement.

Students can choose from a menu of courses to fulfill this requirement. Students will gain skills that will enable them to learn on their own, think critically and apply knowledge to new situations. An emphasis will be placed on problem solving, teamwork skills, global awareness, and proficiency in using technology. These courses emphasize project-based learning where students will collaborate and work on authentic problems they will likely encounter in their future careers.

1. Architecture in the 21st Century
2. Automotive Technology in the 21st Century
3. Business in the 21st Century
4. Computer and Multimedia Applications in the 21st Century
5. Computer Science in the 21st Century (student must have completed Algebra)
6. Engineering in the 21st Century
7. Fashion and Textiles in the 21st Century
8. Culinary Arts in the 21st Century
9. Journalism for the 21st Century
10. Kids in the 21st Century
11. Music for the 21st Century/ Choir
12. Technology in the 21st Century
13. Video in the 21st Century
14. Writing for Film and Media in the 21st Century

The list below contains the courses that can be used to fulfill the Fine/ Performing Arts and 21st Century Skills requirements for graduation. Reminder: The requirement for graduation is **5** credits of Fine/Performing Arts and **5** credits of 21st Century courses.

NOTE: Some of these are semester courses yielding 2.5 credits. Two semester courses would be needed to fulfill the requirement.

FINE / PERFORMING ARTS

Fine/ Performing Arts

AP Art History
Art Portfolio – all levels
Black & White Photography I & II
Honors Chamber Orchestra
Honors Public Speaking
Chorus
Concert Band
Computer Arts
Concert Choir
Desktop Publishing
Drawing – all levels
Graphic Design I & II
Internet & Newspaper Journalism I-VII
Music Theory – all levels
Painting – all levels
Photoshop I & II
String Orchestra
Symphonic Band
Theatre Arts – all levels
Wind Ensemble
Yearbook I & II

21st Century Courses offered:

1. Architecture in the 21st Century
2. Automotive Technology in the 21st Century
3. Business in the 21st Century
4. Computer and Multimedia Applications in the 21st Century
5. Computer Science in the 21st Century (student must have completed Algebra)
6. Engineering in the 21st Century
7. Fashion and Textiles in the 21st Century
8. Culinary Arts in the 21st Century
9. Journalism for the 21st Century
10. Kids in the 21st Century
11. Music for the 21st Century/ Choir
12. Technology in the 21st Century
13. Video in the 21st Century
14. Writing for Film and Media in the 21st Century

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