

BIG RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL



CURRICULUM GUIDE
2013-14



Big Rapids High School is pleased to provide you with this *High School Curriculum Guide*. This guide is designed to provide you with useful information as you plan your high school course of study. We recommend that you take time to review the curriculum guide before making course selections. Our counselors and administrators are always available to help answer questions and to help guide students towards post-secondary goals and opportunities. The staff at Big Rapids High School will strive to provide all students with the skills necessary to become productive and responsible citizens. We want all of our students to become life-long learners. We are excited to welcome you to Big Rapids High School!

Ron Pincumbe, Principal
Josh Easler, Assistant Principal
Nick Scheible, Athletic Director

Hello and welcome to BRHS! We hope this booklet helps guide you in the planning of the courses you would like to take as a student at Big Rapids High School. Graduation requirements, course prerequisites and descriptions, Mecosta Osceola Career Center, testing, college-bound student, and college bound athlete information should be helpful for you.

We encourage you to think in terms of a four-year plan as you look at possible classes to select. It is wise to think about class selection in terms of interest, need, difficulty, and required out of class work. There are many options to consider and if you ever have questions or need some assistance with your plan or schedule, please come and see one of us! We are always willing to review your plans and make recommendations and/or needed changes.

Howard Strom, Guidance Counselor
Lisa Buckingham, Guidance Counselor

BIG RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL

Big Rapids High School is a Class B high school housing grades 9-12. Built in 1998, the building can house approximately 800 students in grades 9-12.

2012-13 enrollment: 671 students
School Mascot: Cardinal

Member of the Central States Athletic Association

Fall Athletic Activities: Football, Volleyball, Boys and Girls Cross Country, Boys Tennis, Girls Golf, Boys Soccer, and Cheerleading

Winter Athletic Activities: Boys Basketball, Girls and Boys Bowling, Ice Hockey, Girls Basketball, Wrestling, and Cheerleading

Spring Athletic Activities: Baseball, Softball, Boys Golf, Girls Soccer, Boys and Girls Track, and Girls Tennis

Activities

National Honor Society, Student Council, Quiz Bowl, Forensics, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), Key Club, Spirit Committee

CLASS TIME SCHEDULE

1ST HOUR	8:15 - 9:25AM
2 ND HOUR (including Announcements)	9:30 - 10:46AM
A LUNCH	10:46 - 11:16PM
3 RD HOUR A	10:51 - 12:01AM
B LUNCH	12:01 - 12:31PM
3 rd HOUR B	11:21 - 12:31PM
4 TH HOUR	12:36 - 1:46PM
5 TH HOUR	1:51 - 3:01PM

Big Rapids High School Graduation Requirements

Big Rapids High School requires 27.5 credits for graduation. Twenty and one-half (20.5) of these credits are required and seven (7) credits are electives. Students are required to carry at least five subjects during the regularly scheduled school day.

- 4 Credits - English (including English I & II or their equivalents)
- 4 Credits - Math (including Algebra I & II, Geometry, Senior Math or math related)
- 3 Credits – Science (including Biology A & B, Chemistry I A, Physics I A, Earth Science)
- 3 Credits - Social Studies (including World History & Geography, U.S. History & Geography, Government/Civics, Economics)
- 2 Credits – Fine Arts/Applied Arts classes
- 2 Credits - World Language
- 1 Credit - Physical Education
- ½ Credit - Health offered through Apex
- ½ Credit – Computer Applications
- ½ Credit – Future Connections (required for Juniors)
- 7 Credits - Electives
- On-line experience – offered throughout HS curriculum
- Michigan Merit Exam Completion

Grade Point Averages (G.P.A.)

Each student's cumulative grade point average (G.P.A.) is calculated at the end of each trimester and recorded automatically on individual report cards. GPA is computed by adding the honor points earned for each class attempted and dividing the sum by the number of classes. Honor points will be awarded as follows:

A	4.0		C	2.0
A-	3.7		C-	1.7
B+	3.3		D+	1.3
B	3.0		D	1.0
B-	2.7		D-	.7
C+	2.3		F	.0

BIG RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL

CURRICULUM COURSE OFFERINGS

Please note that these listed courses may not be offered every trimester.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS CLASSES

1105A-1105B ENGLISH I (1 CREDIT)

English I is a two trimester survey course incorporating multi-cultural literature, grammar study, vocabulary development, literary concepts, and the writing process. Students will be involved in both cooperative learning and individual exploration, with thoughtful consideration of the works presented. Coursework includes interdisciplinary material. The goal of the course is to produce students who are critical readers and competent writers and who are able to evaluate and make connections between what they read and their own lives.

1110A-1110B INTENSIVE ENGLISH I (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: **Teacher Recommendation**. This course is designed for the advanced, ninth grade English student. It is structured following the English I course curriculum, yet designed to be completed at a more rigorous pace.

1205A-1205B ENGLISH II (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: English I credit. English II is a two trimester survey course which continues the work begun in English I focusing on the writing process, vocabulary development, literary concepts, grammar study, and multi-cultural literature. Students build on the skills developed in English I and polish the reading and writing skills emphasized in the previous year.

1230A-1230B INTENSIVE ENGLISH II (2 CREDITS)

Prerequisite: **Recommendation and approval** for placement from Social Studies and English teachers and summer reading. This is an **advanced block** class where students earn one credit each for Social Studies and English that is usually taken in 10th grade. This course involves simultaneous study of American History and American Literature from the Colonial Period to the Present. Many assignments, projects, and evaluations are integrated between the two hours of the block; hence, the History and English portions may not be taken independent of the other.

1305A-1305B ENGLISH III (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: Junior standing. This two trimester course includes important representative literature from the colonial period to the present. Students receive an introduction to a variety of genres including poetry, short stories, drama, novels, biographies, essays, and journals covering the historical, social, and cultural backgrounds of American literature. Coursework and experience include discussion, writing, student presentations and projects, vocabulary study, lecture, movies, and filmstrips. This is a college prep course where higher level thinking skills receive emphasis.

1310A-1310B ENGLISH IV (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: Senior standing. This course introduces the student to the myths of Greece, Rome and northern Europe with some additional exposure to the myths of the Celts, Africans, Sumerians, Aztecs, American Indians, Chinese, and Egyptians. Students compare the myths to our Western literature and culture to find recurring themes and archetypes. Coursework includes reading, discussion, writing, semester projects, maps, posters, and group work. This class is highly recommended for those contemplating college. Students are expected to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate.

1315A-1315B BRITISH LITERATURE (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: Junior/Senior standing. This is a survey course of the literature of England from Anglo Saxon times to the present with the contributions of certain years emphasized. The course requires good reading ability as it includes a Shakespearean play, poetry, the *Beowulf* epic, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, science fiction, and short stories plus non-fiction. Students write as well as read. This is a college preparatory course with higher level thinking skills stressed.

1405A,B,C ADVANCED PLACEMENT LANGUAGE (1 ½ CREDITS)

Prerequisites: Open to Juniors and Seniors with recommendation of English Department - summer reading required. AP Language is a year long, college level English course which centers around both effective writing and critical reading. The course work involves a variety of texts and a variety of writing tasks, dealing mostly with prose that is non-fiction. The purpose of this course is to train students to become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of

periods, disciplines and rhetorical contexts. It will also give them the practice and helpful criticism necessary to make them flexible writers who can compose in a variety of modes and for a variety of purposes. Students planning on taking this course should be very competent writers and eclectic readers. The number of reading and writing assignments will be considerable. (Offered every other year - being offered 2013-14)

1410A,B,C ADVANCED PLACEMENT LITERATURE (1 ½ CREDITS)

Prerequisites: At least a B average in English, a higher GPA is preferable. Open to Juniors and Seniors with recommendation of the English Department - summer reading required. AP Literature is a college English course which explores classic novels, short stories, drama, essays, and poetry. In-depth study of each literary work occurs with a focus on analytical writing. Students employ both the writing process and timed writings as frequent learning tools. The literary pieces studied come from varied cultures such as America, Britain, Italy, Greece, France, and Russia and they cover literature from ancient times to the present. Students who take this course must be self-motivated, self-disciplined, and very organized plus possess a great love of reading. The pace is very rapid and the homework load is heavy. (Offered every other year - will be offered 2014-15.)

1320 POETRY (1/2 CREDIT) - Elective Credit Only

Prerequisite: C or better in English I or English II or teacher recommendation (sophomores by teacher recommendation only). This course involves the use of language through the study of various poetic devices, forms, and techniques. Students will do extensive writing experimenting with various poetic forms and styles. Ample opportunity is given for students to express their creativity through poetic expression. In addition, students will read and comment upon works of established poets. The second half of the course includes poetry projects in which students explore and research topics, themes, and issues.

1325 CREATIVE WRITING (1/2 CREDIT) - Elective Credit Only

Prerequisite: Junior/Senior standing. Creative Writing is a course that gives students the opportunity to explore different forms of writing. Students will be involved in both individual development and cooperative learning environments. In this class, students will also analyze written material and will then apply the criteria through the editing process. This course is intended to provide students with a direct link to the district-wide implementation of the Collins Writing Program.

MATHEMATICS CLASSES

2200A,B,C ALGEBRA I (1 1/2 CREDITS)

Requirements: Scientific calculator and a binder notebook. This course introduces students to the concepts and skills of beginning algebra. Topics are introduced algebraically, graphically, numerically, and verbally; often in the same lesson. Topics include solving equations, proportions, graphing functions, exponents, polynomials, and factoring.

2205A-2205B GEOMETRY (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: D or better in BOTH trimesters of Algebra. Requirements: Scientific calculator and a ringed binder. Traditional geometry concepts are emphasized throughout the entire year. Students learn topics such as area, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, and measurement. Proof is introduced in a variety of forms to help students develop their logical thinking abilities. Algebra skills are integrated throughout and within coordinate geometry topics, plus probability and statistics connections.

2210A-2210B ALGEBRA II (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: D or better in BOTH trimesters of Geometry or written permission from instructor. Requirements: Scientific calculator and ringed binder (a graphing calculator is highly recommended). This course reviews the basics of algebra and moves to more advanced topics. Students study linear systems, matrices, polynomials, and exponential functions.

2300A-2300B EQUATIONS, FUNCTIONS & TRIGONOMETRY (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: C or better in Advanced Algebra both trimesters. Requirements: Graphing calculator and ringed binder. This is a pre-calculus level course that also includes a comprehensive review of algebra. Main topics include polynomials, rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometry, and solving systems of equations.

2305A-2305B CALCULUS WITH PRE-CALCULUS (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: C or better in Algebra and Trigonometry. Requirements: Graphing calculator and ringed binder. This course reinforces algebraic skills within precalculus and then transitions into calculus. Topics include functions, polynomials, limits, derivatives, and integrals. This course does not prepare students for the AP exam but it is a very rigorous course.

2310 PERSONAL FINANCE (1/2 CREDIT)

Units in this course focus on the major personal financial planning problems that individuals and families encounter as responsible economic citizens. Emphasis is on using personal financial planning activities as a framework for developing effective money management practices and addressing contemporary consumer issues. Consumer issues involving personal and family economics are addressed in such units as budgets, banking, tax strategies, investments, credit, insurance, real estate, interest, pensions, and estate and retirement planning. *Can count as Senior Math credit.*

2400A, B, C ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS (1 ½ CREDITS)

Prerequisite: B or better in Algebra and EF&T and teacher recommendation. Requirements: Graphing calculator and a ringed binder. This is an advanced placement course designed to cover the material of an AP Calculus exam. Students taking this course are expected to take the AP exam in May. The material covered consists of topics in analytic geometry, functions, limits, differentiation and its applications and integration and its applications. This course is specifically designed to help students prepare for the Advanced Placement test. With a qualifying score on this test, the student may receive advanced placement credit in many colleges. Students should expect 1 ½ hours or more of homework each night.

SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSES

3100A WORLD HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY (1/2 CREDIT)

This trimester course is a comprehensive, integrated social studies class that explores the history of Western Civilization. Students will grapple with concepts in economics, geography, and government as well as wrestle with global issues of pressing current interest and concern.

3100B WORLD HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY (1/2 CREDIT)

This course is a comprehensive, integrated social studies class that explores the history of sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and East Asia. Students will create a personal vision of the world using concepts in economics, geography, and government. The vision created will represent the diversity and complexity that exists in the world today.

3200A U.S. HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY (1/2 CREDIT)

This course is a survey of US History from 1890 to 1960 that places emphasis on the changing role of the United States in the world and on the corresponding social and political events at home.

3200B U.S. HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY (1/2 CREDIT)

This course is a survey of U.S. history from 1960 to the present that includes units exploring the changing political climate in the United States, the Civil Rights movement, the Cold War, the Vietnam Era, the rise of the Conservative Movement, and the War on Terror.

3230A-3230B US HISTORY/LITERATURE OF AMERICA (2 CREDITS)

Schedule with 1230A-1230B Intensive English II

3300 ECONOMICS (1/2 CREDIT)

Through this course, students will describe and demonstrate how financial structures affect consumer and producer decisions. Emphasis will be placed on business organization, trade, economic development, governmental institutions and policies, personal financial, and economic decisions and behaviors. Learning experiences will be provided which enable students to interpret data and make applications to the United States in a global economy.

3310 AMERICAN GOVERNMENT/CIVICS (1/2 CREDIT)

The course will present the fundamentals of the U.S. government, covering the structure and function of our political systems. Students will focus on projects designed to demonstrate our political process in action, and sharpen their skills to become more informed citizens. An emphasis is placed on the national government, with comparisons and contrasts made to state and local government. Students will study the foundations of democracy, the role and use of power and authority as held by different groups over time, the three branches of government, and political participation and behavior.

3314 AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM (1/2 CREDIT)

Prerequisites: U.S. History and Geography A & B. This is a survey course of American history from the Revolutionary War to September 11, 2001, through the use of film as our guide. Key topics covered will include: the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, Reconstruction, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the civil rights movement, and

September 11th. Students will study a topic in history, then watch a film on the topic, and finally research the accuracy of the film. Though experiencing American History through film is a focus of this course, students will also participate actively in research, writing, and other critical analysis related to the film, its place in American history, and its impact on American Society. (Offered every other year - will be offered 2014-15)

3405 PSYCHOLOGY (1/2 CREDIT)

This is a general introductory course dealing with psychology as a study of human behavior. Course will include personality development, principles of learning, neurosis, psychosis, and forms of treatment.

SCIENCE CLASSES

4100A-4100B BIOLOGY (1 CREDIT)

This two trimester course will explore areas of Biology. Emphasis will be placed on cellular biology, cellular energetics (photosynthesis and cellular respiration), genetics, evolution, diversity of organisms human structure, and function and environmental ecology. This course will have a laboratory component.

4105A,B,C INTENSIVE SCIENCE (1 ½ CREDITS)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, test, and application process only. This three trimester course is designed for students who wish to excel in science. It is rigorous with extensive laboratory experience as well as scientific research and writing. The course will cover Biology, Intro to Chemistry and Intro to Physics topics. Students taking this course should enroll in Earth Science concurrently. Students are expected to be self-directed and self-motivated as the course is very fast paced with little remediation.

4200A-4200B CHEMISTRY I (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: Biology. This course will include the topics of: states of matter, atoms, molecules, chemical bonds and chemical reactions. Additional topics will include: acid base chemistry, carbon chemistry, nuclear reactions and thermal, and heat transfer. This course will have a laboratory component.

4205A-4205B PHYSICS I (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: Biology. This course will explore the State physics requirements. Topics include motion, Newton's Laws, waves and vibrations, light, color, sound, electricity, gravity and momentum. This course will have a laboratory component.

4210 EARTH SCIENCE (1/2 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: Biology. This one trimester course will explore the State requirements for Earth Science. Topics will include plate tectonics, weather, running and ground water, oceanography and astronomy. This course will have a laboratory component.

4305A-4305B ANATOMY/PHYSIOLOGY (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisites: Biology, Intro to Chemistry, Intro to Physics, and Earth Science. Students who took Intensive Science may also enroll. Students enrolling in this two trimester course should have a strong background in math, biology and chemistry. This is an accelerated course and students enrolling should be self-motivated. This course will study human anatomy and physiology - the study of how our bodies are put together and how they work and will include animal dissections.

4315A-4315B CHEMISTRY II (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisites: Intro to Chemistry or Intensive Science as well as Algebra II which may be taken concurrently. This two trimester course is a college preparatory course dealing with all aspects of atomic structure and chemical reactions. Laboratory work is extensively included. Mathematical relationships involving the composition, concentration, temperature, pressure and energy of substances are emphasized.

4400A-4400B CHEMISTRY III (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: Chemistry. This is an excellent preparatory course (offered every other year) for students who will be pursuing a chemistry related major in college. The course will review chemistry topics and will expand on topics including thermo chemistry, reaction rates, reaction equilibrium, oxidation/reduction, nuclear chemistry, chemical analysis, introduction to organic chemistry and an introduction to Biochemistry. (Offered every other year - will be offered 2014-15)

4405A-4405B PHYSICS II (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: Physics I and EF&T concurrently. Physics II is a course (offered every other year) designed to give the student an awareness of the many basic natural properties which he/she confronts daily. The concepts are discussed and presented in mathematical formulas. The student has ample opportunity to show their mathematical prowess in the solving of many problems concerning forces, work, torque, power, light, waves, heat, sound, and electricity. (Offered every other year - being offered 2013-14)

4410A,B,C ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY (1 1/2 CREDITS)

Prerequisite: Either Anatomy/Physiology or Chemistry II. Advanced Placement Biology is an in-depth study of biology. Students must be prepared for an intensive and extremely rigorous pace. Only self-motivated students should register for this course. The class emphasis is on cell-biology, genetics, evolution, classification of organisms, human structure and function and ecology. At the completion of the course, students may select to take a national exam to determine whether they can receive college credit for the course.

WORLD LANGUAGE CLASSES

5100A-5100B SPANISH I (1 CREDIT)

CD Rom and laser discs are used extensively for drill and listening purposes. Memorization is fundamental to progress in learning and recognizing vocabulary and structure through imitation, recognition, selection, and variation. Writing is introduced through dictation, answering questions, and guided composition. Various Hispanic cultures are explored through cooking, customs, float building, readings and guest speakers.

5200A-5200B SPANISH II (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: C or better in Spanish I. Review and completion of Level 1 material using methods outlined above. Emphasis in Level II shifts to independence in reading through wider exposure to new vocabulary and word recognition through use of cognates. Students begin to explore self-expression in Spanish. There is also more emphasis on writing, both guided and original. Grammar is studied formally as well as through drills. Students are expected and encouraged to express independent ideas in the target language. The Hispanic culture in the U.S. and around the world is emphasized through legends and video.

5300A-5300B SPANISH III (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: Spanish I & II. Level II text and materials are completed using methods and testing described above. The emphasis of this course is the practical, real-world ability to communicate the students' thoughts and opinions.

5400A-5400B SPANISH IV (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: Spanish I, II, & III. Continuation of Level III materials as well as specific study of selected representative Spanish and Latin American writers.

5110A-5110B FRENCH I (1 CREDIT)

The four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing will be developed. As vocabulary is presented, it is used in real-life dialogue and much oral practice follows. Memorization is necessary to learn new sounds, new words and fundamental structure of the language. Tapes and video cassettes are used as listening aids and models for the students. Culture is introduced progressively and some creative projects, holiday celebrations, and food preparation are included.

5210A-5210B FRENCH II (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: French I. Following a review of French I, students will be introduced to new elements of the language through narratives and dialogues. Vocabulary will continue to be learned along with grammatical structures. There is much opportunity to communicate orally in French as a variety of exercises allows for self-expression. Students will be able to participate in short play lets and work on special cultural projects during the year. Holidays will be celebrated and daily-life customs of young people will be observed. Cross-cultural activities continue to be possible.

5310A-5310B FRENCH III (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: French I & II. A continuation of the beginning levels, students will advance themselves in their ability to express themselves in speech and writing. They will be more independent in their reading and understanding.

5410A-5410B FRENCH IV (1 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: French I, II, III. This course will be a completion study of French written structure and finishing the Level III text.

HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES

6100 PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1/2 CREDIT)

This course is designed to give the student an opportunity to develop physical skills, body coordination, and to learn to play and to develop a carryover of lifetime activities. Offered are the following which will include, but not be limited to: aerobic conditioning, body toning, physical fitness testing, flexibility and strength training, touch football, soccer, speedball, floor hockey, basketball, volleyball, softball, and tennis. Students with medical exemption from Physical Education are still required to take Health Education. Team sports along with physical conditioning flexibility and weight training will also be covered in this trimester long course.

6105 HEALTH (1/2 CREDIT)

This APEX course helps students develop knowledge, attitudes, and essential skills in a variety of health-related subjects, including mental and emotional health; nutrition; physical activity; substance use and abuse; injury prevention and safety; and personal health, environmental conservation, and community health resources. Students build the skills they need to protect, enhance, and promote their own health and the health of others.

6110 AEROBICS (1/2 CREDIT)

The class will consist of cardio-vascular activity several times a week, concentrating on the fundamentals of movement which include, but are not limited to, step aerobics, aerobics, and/or others at instructor's discretion. The class will also cover basic weight training, using resistance tubing with maximum movement and repetition. Students will be required to construct and design workout routines and use them with the instructor and class members during class sessions.

6200 STRENGTH TRAINING AND CONDITIONING (1/2 CREDIT)

This class is designed for students interested in weight training and cardio-vascular fitness. Class will rotate from the weight room to the gymnasium. Days in the weight room will concentrate on weight training techniques and theory. In the gym, we will focus on cardiovascular activities and team sports.

6300 SKILLS FOR LIVING (1/2 CREDIT)

This class will explore the following topics as well as others: individual personal finance using checkbooks, budgeting, and planning; adult roles and responsibilities; relationships – family/future; individual nutrition; and future planning to include careers and employable skills.

6400 ADVANCED PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1/2 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: One year Physical Education and Health. Junior standing with instructor approval. THERE IS A \$50 FEE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS CLASS. Advanced Physical Education is offered to those students who wish to participate in lifelong recreational activities. Emphasis is placed on physical fitness being integrated with many team and individual sports. Activities offered will include, but not be limited to the following: touch football, soccer, speedball, floor hockey, basketball, gymnastics, volleyball, softball, team handball, and tennis. Skiing, broomball, golf, bowling, and fishing are among the potential field trips taken.

APPLIED ARTS CLASSES

7100 COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (1/2 CREDIT)

This is a one trimester course designed to prepare students for college and employment. This course will familiarize students with computer hardware, application software, Windows operating system, history and terminology, and provide an on-line experience. Students will learn application programs which include word processing, spreadsheet, and basic web design. Students can continue to advanced computer courses for training in web page design and html programming. This course meets the ½ credit requirement for graduation.

7200 WEB DESIGN (1/2 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Computer Applications with a "B-" or better. This is a project-based course for students who wish to learn how to use Macromedia Dreamweaver software to build tables, apply styles and create attractive web pages for personal or commercial use.

7205 ADVANCED WEB DESIGN (1/2 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Web Design. Students will explore other aspects of web page building. This course focuses on advanced options in Macromedia Dreamweaver as well as Fireworks, an image editing program.

7235A,B,C COMPUTER-AIDED DRAFTING MECHANICAL (1 ½ CREDITS)

Students will examine multi-view drawings, layers, dimensioning, blocks, attributes, three dimensional drawings, 3-D modeling, and use AutoShade. Students will draw and edit plotlines, set I layers, linotypes, colors, dimension drawings, create section lines and graphic patterns, design symbols and attributes for multiple use. Students will demonstrate their technical drafting skills by producing a portfolio of computer-aided technical drawings.

7325A,B,C COMPUTER-AIDED DRAFTING ARCHITECTURAL (1 ½ CREDITS)

In CAD Architectural Design, the student will be introduced to the basic concepts and skills used in the building industry to accurately communicate ideas and produce technical drawings related to the design and construction of single family residential structures. They will create floor and foundation plans, wall, ceiling, floor, and roof details. They will also create elevation drawings and door and window schedules.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CLASSES

7125 WOODS I (1/2 CREDIT)

This one trimester course is designed to give the students a comprehensive look at wood shop tools, equipment, manufacturing products and safety. With the emphasis of safety in the work place, we spend a large portion of our time going over safety work habits. It is taught as if no previous shop courses have been taken. The basic idea of the class is to teach correct usage and safety of most hand tools and many power tools. Areas of study include wood-working, planning, finishing and shop safety. After the required projects are completed, the students will choose a project of their own with the guidance of the instructor. Finding or drawing plans and acquiring the materials will be the student's responsibility. The cost of the materials will be borne by the students.

7225A,B,C WOODS II and III (1/2 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: Wood I with "C" average and instructor approval. Woods II and III may be taken one, two or all three trimesters. These classes are an advanced study of woodworking skills. They include instruction on all power tools stressing safety at all times and a detailed study of furniture and construction and finishes. These courses include construction of a piece of furniture so each student must be ready to spend \$20.00 or more on materials. A major project is required.

FINE ARTS COURSES

ART CLASSES

8130 EXPLORATORY ART (1/2 CREDIT)

This course is designed to expose students to a variety of mediums of art including: drawing, painting, printmaking, and ceramics. Students will experience a variety of media and techniques in their exploration of two and three dimensional art processes. Students will travel through art history using their findings as inspiration for each composition. A \$12.00 fee is due at the beginning of the trimester.

8100 DRAWING AND DESIGN (1/2 CREDIT)

This course introduces students to the fundamental skills in drawing and the elements of art and principles of design. Students will experience a variety of media and techniques in their exploration of two-dimensional art processes. Art appreciation: students will study well-known architectural structures from prehistoric to modern times. Students will be able to write an art criticism. A \$7.00 fee is due at the beginning of the trimester.

SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF DRAWING AND DESIGN WITH A "C" OR BETTER IS REQUIRED BEFORE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ART COURSES MAY BE ELECTED. If a student feels he/she has exceptional art skills and wishes to have the Drawing and Design prerequisite waived, he/she must submit a portfolio before signing up for any of the art courses listed below. See art teacher for portfolio requirements.

8105 SCULPTURE (1/2 CREDIT)

Sculpture techniques in wire, clay, plaster, paper and wood are covered. Art appreciation: Greek through modern sculpture. A \$12.00 fee is due at the beginning of the trimester.

8110 FIGURE DRAWING AND PAINTING (1/2 CREDIT)

This one trimester higher level art class unlocks the mysteries of drawing and painting the human form. It is a "must take" class for the visual arts/graphics arts major or those students who want to learn how to improve their skills in drawing and painting people. A \$10.00 fee is due at the beginning of the trimester.

8115 POTTERY/CERAMICS (1/2 CREDIT)

This course focuses primarily on wheel-thrown and hand-built pottery. Art appreciation: Prehistoric through Green and Early American pottery. A \$12.00 fee is due at the beginning of the trimester.

8120 PAINTING (1/2 CREDIT)

This course focuses on understanding color theory, painting techniques and concepts. Students will explore both water-color and acrylic paints. Students will be challenged to try different styles and explore different subjects including still life, landscape, and portrait. Art appreciation: Renaissance through Impressionism as well as modern artists. A \$15.00 fee is due at the beginning of the trimester.

8300 ADVANCED DRAWING AND DESIGN (1/2 CREDIT)

This course will be offered to students who have successfully completed the basic Drawing and Design course. They will be asked to write a contract detailing what they hope to achieve in the class, creating individualized coursework in drawing with marginal teacher direction. A \$10.00 fee is due at the beginning of the trimester.

8315 ADVANCED POTTERY/THE WHEEL (1/2 CREDIT)

This course is for students who have successfully completed Pottery/Ceramics. It will focus on building skills in wedging, centering, and throwing on the potter's wheel. Students will be able to spend a concentrated amount of time on the wheel instead of focusing on hand-built works. A \$12.00 fee is due at the beginning of the trimester.

8335 STUDIO (1/2 CREDIT)

This course is for students who have successfully completed Drawing and Design and have taken one of the offered studio courses with an interest in pursuing more extensive work in that particular medium. It is broke up into two sessions; the first focuses on installation art, conceptual art and environmental art, culminating in an collaborative group instillation, while the second session is devoted to independent work culminating in a student portfolio. A \$15.00 fee is due at the beginning of the trimester.

DRAMA CLASSES

8230 DRAMA I (1/2 CREDIT)

Practical experience in the work of the theatre is the main emphasis of this course. Students will be introduced to the theatre as a whole - on stage and backstage - and will participate in all types of technical work (design and construction of sets, lighting theory and design, costume and make-up for the stage) as well as a group project, at least one one-act play in addition to assisting in working on the school theatrical production for that trimester.

8235-YR DRAMA II (1 ½ CREDITS)

This theater course offers intermediate and advanced theatre students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of theater and to develop their theatrical skills in performance and technical areas. Students will learn to analyze and utilize different acting and directing styles from various periods, create and perform original pieces, analyze and participate in a musical theater production, and act as cast and/or crew member in at least one full-length drama or comedy. This year long course is by audition only. Due to demands of play production, this class will sometimes operate using a variable block schedule principle. (Note: This class meets after regular school hours.)

8240-YR THEATRICAL DESIGN AND PRODUCTION (1 ½ CREDITS)

Prerequisite: Drama I or teacher recommendation. In the year long class, students will learn both design and application in several areas of technical theatre. Students will fill technical positions for the fall play after being trained on the specialized theatre equipment. Besides set design and construction, students will learn about lighting, sound, house management, and stage management. Students taking this class will be working on a flexible block schedule. Students must have experience with lighting, sound, and/or other technical theatre work to take this course. (Note: This class meets after regular school hours.)

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CLASSES

8245A & C MUSIC APPRECIATION (1/2 CREDIT)

This course is designed for both the musician and non-musician as a survey of music history from Renaissance to modern day. Focus will be on composers/artists throughout the different musical eras, and work will be primarily with sound records, sheet music, class notebooks, research projects, listening journals, and a final portfolio.

8250-YR CONCERT BAND (1 ½ CREDITS)

Prerequisite: Instrumental music experience. This year long course concentrates on advancing the skills necessary to play wind and percussion instruments, expanding ranges, more advanced rhythms, scales, intonation, phrasing, styles, and other related areas. The student is exposed to many varieties of music. Activities include concerts, District and State band festivals and Solo/Ensemble festivals. Participation in Marching Band is optional.

8255-YR WIND SYMPHONY (1 ½ CREDITS)

Prerequisite: Student must audition. This year long course offers the advanced instrumentalist continued growth as a musician and intensified musical activity. A large amount of literature for winds is studied and performed. Activities include concerts, District and State band festivals, and Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Participation in Marching Band is optional. Opportunities for Honors Group selection are also available.

8350B CHAMBER WINDS (1/2 CREDIT)

Prerequisite: Director's recommendation. This group will be comprised of any instrumental music student in grades 9-12 who wishes to have an advanced small ensemble experience.

CHAMBER WINDS:

Tuba Quartet	Percussion Ensemble	Brass Quintet
Flute Choir	Woodwind Quintet	Clarinet Choir
Saxophone Quartet	Trumpet Choir	Horn Quartet
Trombone Choir		

Each trimester, student enrolled in Chamber Winds receives 1/2 credit. A student cannot earn more than one (1) credit per year for Chamber Winds. This course does not count as one of the five required classes taken in a school day.

VOCAL MUSIC CLASSES

8160-YR CHORUS (1 1/2 CREDITS)

Chorus is open to all high school women and men. Members will perform in three concerts during the school year and will sing at one of the commencement activities. Members are occasionally invited to perform for community service groups. In addition, Chorus will participate in the Fall District Massed Choir Festival and the Spring District/State Choral Festivals. Advanced students are encouraged to participate in MSVMA Honors Choirs and District/State Solo-Ensemble Festivals and summer camps.

8360-YR SERENADE (1 ½ CREDITS)

Prerequisite: Serenade is a select choir open to upperclass singers by AUDITION. Members will sing in regularly scheduled concerts and graduation activities, in addition to producing a major musical/opera. Serenade will also participate in Spring District/State Choral Festivals. This is a year long class. All members are encouraged to participate in MSVMA Honors Choirs, Solo/Ensemble Festivals, and summer camps. (Note: This class meets "zero hour" - before regular school day.)

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE CLASSES

A100 FRESHMAN FOCUS (1/2 CREDIT)

This class is designed to assist 9th grade students in making a positive transition from the Middle School to the High School and to provide the skills necessary for academic/social success. Units of study will include: organizational skills, time management, how to be successful in the classroom, note taking, study skills, test taking strategies, goal setting, and stress management. This course earns the student credit or no credit. This is dependent on completion of grade sheets and classroom behavior and cooperativeness.

A300 FUTURE CONNECTIONS (1/2 CREDIT)

For Juniors: This required class is designed primarily to prepare students for taking the State mandated ACT/MME exams. In addition, students will be instructed on transitioning to college or other career options. The course will be divided into three sections: Math, English and Science. Instruction will emphasize standardized test-taking strategies that specifically relate to the ACT/MME exams. (Students will be graded on attendance, daily classroom participation, and in class and homework assignments.)

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Dual Enrollment

Juniors and Seniors may take classes at a Michigan college or university and have part or all of the tuition and fees paid by the district providing the student meets eligibility requirements from their PLAN or PSAT scores. Students must have a 3.25 grade point average and may elect to receive college credit, high school credit, or both. If the student desires high school credit, they can receive 1/2 credit per trimester. A student cannot enroll in a dual enrollment class if the same course is offered at Big Rapids High School unless it will not fit in their schedule.

Apex Learning Courses

Apex Learning are online courses that students may be enrolled in at BRHS. These course are intended to create flexibility and allow students to take multiple courses based on what an individual student's needs may be, whether that is for the purpose of credit recovery, electives, or scheduling conflicts. The courses also align with the State of Michigan's requirement of online learning. Please contact the guidance office for more information on specific courses.

MECOSTA-OSCEOLA CAREER CENTER

Presently there are fourteen different vocational courses of study at the MOCC that are available to BRHS juniors and seniors. Students must sign up during registration, usually February of the Sophomore year. *These courses can be used as Elective credits toward graduation as well as "Senior Math" credit or the Algebra II requirement.*



Health Services

Therapeutic Services – Students are introduced to the allied health care fields in this one year course.

Major components include anatomy, physiology, medical terminology, and professional clinical experience. Therapeutics can be taken as your first and they the student can proceed into Nursing Services. Therapeutics offers hands-on experience with clinical and communication skills.

Nursing Services - This one-year program introduces students to the nursing profession. Major components include anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, medical math, CPR, and professional clinical experience. The curriculum is designed to meet the demands of the student and the changes in health care. Significant segments of class time are devoted to learning skills to be used in a nursing career. Included are all aspects of personal care, taking vital signs, and learning transfer techniques.



Engineering

Automotive Technology – The Automotive Technology program is NATEF certified in four areas of automotive repair: Engine Repair, Brakes, Electricity/Electronics and Suspension/Steering Systems. The program provides also covers safety, preventative maintenance, business knowledge, such as writing repair orders and estimates, and automotive electricity/electronic systems. Students are prepared to take the State of Michigan Mechanic Certification Tests in each of the four NATEF certified repair areas.

CAD/Drafting – This is a two-year program in technical drafting and CAD (Computer Aided Design). The first year consists of development of basic drafting skills and exposure to three-dimensional space and rapid prototyping. The second year consists of two options using CAD with emphasis on Mechanical or Architectural design. Students will also be exposed to designing jigs, fixtures and sheet metal stamping dies for manufacturing. Students in this program will learn the fundamental skills and concepts necessary for architectural planning, designing, and drawing.

Diesel Technology – This program is NATEF certified in two areas of diesel repair; Preventive Maintenance Inspection and Diesel Engine Diagnosis and Repair. This program is designed to equip students with entry-level skills in the repair and maintenance of medium and heavy duty trucks, heavy equipment and agricultural machinery. Additional topics covered include welding, hydraulic diagnosis and repair, and electrical system repair, ranging from basic to intermediate and will assist the technician in the diagnosis and repair of modern day vehicle control systems.

Innovative Engineering – This program teaches the disciplines including: alternative energies, robotics, machining, plastics, electronics, fluid power, quality control and design. Student design and produce their own product (s) and have been involved in worldwide design projects.

Integrated Construction Technology - Integrated Construction Technology is a two-year classroom and laboratory based program designed to provide an overview of many areas of construction including: safety, construction mathematics, employability skills, construction tools, equipment, materials, print reading, carpentry, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, masonry, heavy equipment, civil construction, construction careers and business management.

Welding and Fabrication – This “hands-on” class trains students in a number of welding and cutting processes such as stick, mig, tig, spot, oxy fuel, flux core, brazing, plasma cutting and carbon arc gouging. Fabrication tools used include: drill press, shears, power shears, benders, brakes, and CNC based plasma cutters. Students will also use metal working processes to fabricate projects. Advanced students may also work with CAD programs in the designing of projects. College credit is available through articulated credit with related college programs.



Arts & Communications

Graphic Communications – This two-year program is designed to give students a hand-on overview of the entire graphic/visual communication industry. First year students are exposed to all phases of the industry as they develop skills in producing printed products. Second year students participate in a self-paced study of more advanced graphic processes. Students receive hands-on instruction on computer imaging, electronic publishing, graphic layout and design, photography, web design, game design, offset printing, customer service, team work and problem solving.

Digital Video Production - This program is a two-year program that prepares students in a career in video production. The course consists of equipment and techniques used in capturing digital video, camera operator, lighting concepts, audio recording, and computer software used in the editing process. Scripts, storyboards and cinematographic techniques will be applied throughout the experience.



Human Services

Cosmetology – The Cosmetology course is a two-year program starting with seniors in high school attending either the morning or afternoon sessions. They return the following year as a full time student until 1,500 hours of instruction are attained. First year students concentrate on theory and practical work on mannequins and each other. Those completing the program may apply to the State Board of Cosmetology to take the test for a Cosmetology license. Second year students continue theory work as well as operate the “Touch of Class” salon, which is open to the public. (Note: Tuition is charged for the second year.)

Early Childhood Careers – This program is designed to meet the needs of students who plan to pursue a career in education and can prepare a student for teaching careers in a PreK-2nd grade environment. It emphasizes teaching and learning sequence, child development, theory, and practice. The curriculum includes: lesson planning, organizing activities, observational skills from preschool to second grade, emergency skills (CPR and first aid), and advancement of technology skills.

Culinary Arts – The Culinary Arts program will provided an extensive study experience in sanitation and safety at the beginning of the first year, then after completing the ServSafe unit, students will operate and manage a model restaurant, “The Starting Place”. All students will have an opportunity to work in a wide variety of restaurant positions gaining valuable work experience in work ethics, commercial foods and the hospitality industry. The second year focuses on management, advanced food preparation and time management.

Public Safety – This program will introduce students to exciting job possibilities within the public safety field such as Law Enforcement, Fire Science/Firefighting, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Court/Corrections Systems. Students will enjoy many “hands on” experiences and physical fitness and wellness training. Self-discipline, leadership skills, and the ability to function as part of a team are enhanced throughout the classroom experiences. Qualified second year students may receive instructor recommendation to be eligible for enhanced classroom responsibilities, work based education experiences and cooperative education experiences.

Looking Ahead to College

Although each university has final say in admissions decisions, Michigan's public universities strongly encourage you to follow the program of coursework listed below that follows the Michigan Merit Curriculum:

English (4 credits including English 9-12th grades)

Mathematics (4 credits including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and one math course in final year of high school)

Sciences (3 credits including Biology Physics or Chemistry and one additional Science credit)

Social Studies (3 credits including 1/2 credit in Civics, U.S. History and Geography, 1/2 credit in Economics, and World History and Geography)

Physical Education & Health (1 credit)

Visual, Performing and Applied Arts (1 credit)

Online Learning Experience (Course, Learning or Integrated Learning Experience)

World Language (2 credits in grades 9-12; OR an equivalent learning experience in grades K-12 effective beginning with students graduating in 2016)

Source: Presidents Council – State Universities of Michigan

Testing Programs

The Board of Education has made the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) a graduation requirement. The MME consists of the ACT Plus Writing, the ACT WorkKeys (an ACT job skills assessment) plus a Michigan Mathematics, Science and Social Studies component, to assess the remainder of the skills required in the Michigan Merit Curriculum. The ACT Plus Writing portion of the MME will provide students with a college reportable ACT score that can be used for college admission. The High School will provide the MME to students in the spring of their junior year. Freshmen and sophomore students will be given the PLAN test (ACT's curriculum-based college readiness test) to get them acquainted with the MME/ACT style of testing.

Information about the tests is available in the Guidance Office. You may also want to visit the Michigan Department of Education website www.michigan.gov/mme for more information.

NCAA Requirements for College Freshmen Athletes

Many college athletic programs are regulated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), an organization that has established rules on eligibility, recruiting and financial aid. If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman and you wish to participate in Division I or Division II athletics, you must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The clearinghouse evaluates your academic record to determine if you are eligible and will issue a preliminary certification report when you have had all your materials submitted.

If you have questions, please contact the clearinghouse online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net or by telephone at toll free 877-262-1492. Your High School Guidance Counselors also have more information.

Note: This guide is subject to change based on evaluation at the end of the school year.