

2022- 2023 Grade 9 Course Selection Frequently Asked Questions

General Course Questions

Can my student take Advanced Placement (AP) courses in 9th grade?

According to The College Board, Advanced Placement courses are intended for students to take in the upper grade levels. For this reason, we only offer 1 AP Class for Grade 9 students. Students have the option of taking AP Human Geography in grade 9 as their Social Science elective. However, upperclassmen do have priority when scheduling students for this course. If a grade 9 student selects AP Human Geography on their course selection form, they must also complete the AP course recommendation form to be considered for the course.

When should students start Dual Enrollment (DE) courses?

We recommend students first become oriented to the high school experience and high school coursework prior to participating in Dual Enrollment.

Are 9th graders allowed to take DE classes?

Students must have an established high school GPA of 3.0 or above in order to be eligible for Dual Enrollment. We recommend students wait until the second semester of the grade 9 year or summer between 9th and 10th grade to begin Dual Enrollment courses.

What courses are offered over the summer?

BDCHS does not offer summer school at this time.

Can students take FLVS courses over the summer?

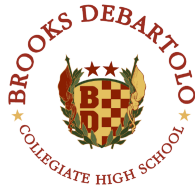
Students wishing to take FLVS courses over the summer should get approval from their middle school counselor prior to departing for the summer. We do not approve summer courses until after incoming 9th graders are officially BDCHS students in August.

If my student wants to take a course not offered at BDCHS, is there a way to replace a class block with a FLVS class to be taken on campus?

BDCHS students must be fully enrolled which equates to 8 BDCHS courses. Students taking FLVS courses must do so in addition to their BDCHS schedule.

Are students able to complete an Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree alongside their high school diploma?

This year, 17 BDCHS students will earn their A.A. degrees at the same time as their high school diploma.



Can students take FLVS courses over the summer starting in the summer between 9th and 10th grade?

Yes, once students are BDCHS students, their school counselor can approve summer courses on FLVS.

Can students graduate early?

Yes, if a student is interested in graduating early, they should meet with their counselor during the second semester of the 9th grade year to determine an appropriate course plan for grades 10 and 11.

If a student finishes Geometry in 8th grade, are they eligible to take Algebra 2 when they enter 9th grade?

Yes. If you are an A/B, or high C student, then Algebra 2 is recommended after Geometry. If a student struggles in math, we recommend they take our Math for College Readiness course after Geometry to review foundational skills prior to Algebra 2.

If my student is currently at a private school that doesn't give End-of-Course (EOC) exams and is taking Algebra 1, when and where can they take the EOC?

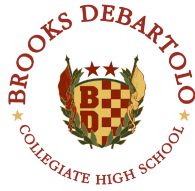
Our School Counselors and Assessment Coordinator will review all student's files upon entry to BDCHS and will schedule state assessments as needed. We conduct Fall and Winter state assessment administrations each year and offer to students in situations such as these as needed.

If my student has struggled greatly through Algebra 1 this year can she take Algebra 1 again for a better foundation?

Students have the opportunity to retake a course for grade enhancement if they earn a C or lower. Students who struggled in Algebra and do not pass the EOC will be placed in an Intensive Math course alongside the next course in the math sequence, Geometry.

How does Intensive Math work?

Intensive Math DOES NOT fulfill math graduation requirements. However, it supports students in their current math class and in meeting required assessment benchmarks. Students who do not meet assessment benchmarks in math during the prior school year may be scheduled for Intensive Math alongside Algebra 1 and/or Geometry. Students struggling with math should not enter Algebra 2 without the recommendation of a math teacher.



Science Course Questions

Can my student take AP Biology?

BDCHS does not currently offer AP Biology. If a student would like to take a course not offered by BDCHS, they can do so with counselor approval on FLVS in addition to their BDCHS courses.

Can my student double up on core classes?

We do not recommend students double up on core courses without consultation with a school counselor. There are few circumstances where this would be appropriate.

What if by 9th grade, my son has taken both Physical Science and Biology?

There are a few grade 9 students who are eligible to enroll in Chemistry, and this would be one example of such.. We recommend that students continue on in the course progression, especially if they are strong in a particular subject area.

English Course Questions

If my student is currently enrolled in Advanced Literature, do they still take English 1 Honors?

Yes, all grade 9 students enroll in English 1 Honors as their first high school English course.

Physical Education Course Questions

What is HOPE?

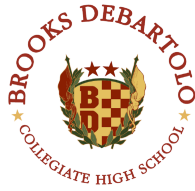
Health Opportunities through Physical Education. The purpose of this course is to develop and enhance healthy behaviors that influence lifestyle choices and student health and fitness. A majority of class time is spent in physical activity. In addition to the physical education content, specific health education topics within this course include, but are not limited to: Mental/Social Health, Components of Physical Fitness, Nutrition and Wellness Planning, Diseases and Disorders, and Health Advocacy. This course fulfills the physical education graduation requirement.

Is it okay if my student has already completed HOPE on FLVS?

We encourage all Grade 9 students to take HOPE at BDCHS as part of their common freshmen experience. However, if your student has already completed the course that is okay. They will have room in their schedule to participate in a different elective.

If my student takes Driver Education, do they also have to take Basketball?

Yes. This is a paired elective course.



If my student is turning 15 before the end of the semester, can he take Driver Education on FLVS over the summer so he doesn't have to wait until the end of the semester to get his permit?

All summer FLVS courses should be approved by your middle school counselor.

Academic Support Course Questions

What if my student is taking Digital Information Technology in 8th grade?

We include Digital Information Technology as part of our standard grade 9 schedule to help orient students to the digital platforms we utilize at BDCHS. However, if a student already has credit for the course, they may take a different elective course.

World Language Course Questions

If a student hasn't taken a Spanish class, however, speaks, reads, and writes Spanish fluently could they be tested to enter a higher level Spanish course?

If a native Spanish speaker wishes to enroll in a Spanish course, but has not taken Spanish 1, they may enroll in Spanish 2, and if further change of placement is required, then our Spanish teachers will do so at the start of the school year.

Are there any other languages available besides Spanish?

Unfortunately, no. BDCHS only offers Spanish in our World Languages department. Students may enroll in a different language on FLVS in addition to their BDCHS schedule or over the summer, or enroll in a language via Dual Enrollment at HCC.

What course should I sign up for if my student has already taken Spanish 1 and 2?

The next course in our sequence at BDCHS is Spanish 3 Honors. We recommend that all students who are able take four years of a foreign language for competitive college admissions and to be eligible for a biliteracy seal on their diploma.

If my student is currently taking Italian at their middle school, can they continue this through FLVS for their language credit?

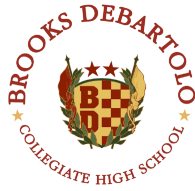
Yes.

If the student has taken Spanish 1, are they not allowed to take dual enrollment Spanish?

It is not advised as Elementary Spanish in Dual Enrollment is equivalent to Spanish 1 at the high school level.

If a student has met the foreign language requirement for Bright Futures, can they do a different language via DE or FLVS?

Yes. However, four years of foreign language is recommended for biliteracy.



Fine & Performing Arts Course Questions

Is there an orchestra elective?

No. We only offer band. However, we will find ways to support students with orchestra instruments through our band courses and in county and state competitions/

Do the art classes cover digital art?

Yes. After students have completed Drawing and Painting, then they are eligible to request an AP Art Elective. Students in the AP Art courses explore various digital techniques.

General BDCHS Questions

It seems like grade 9 students have a rigid schedule, are there any fun clubs to add to the rigorous classes, since there are few elective options for 9th grade?

Yes! This year, COVID-19 has put a damper on our club activities. However, BDCHS has seven different clubs honor societies, along with clubs that range from athletic, game-based, and service-oriented.

Can we schedule a time to meet with a counselor before we enroll in classes?

The Grade 9 schedule is fairly standard. If you have specific questions about your students' unique scheduling needs you may contact our school counselor, Ms. Ariass, at jarias@bdchs.org or our Learning Resource Specialist, Ms. Jones, at kjones@bdchs.org

At what point in time do students learn about Bright Futures options?

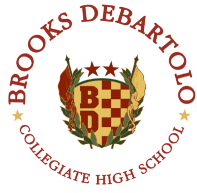
Our School Counselors regularly provide information to students and periodically hold informational sessions for families regarding Bright Futures.

What time does school start and end? Also how long is each period?

Our school day begins at 8:00am and ends at 3:10pm. Each class block is 90 minutes long.

How does block scheduling work?

Students are enrolled in 8 courses. Mondays and Wednesdays are "Garnet" Days in which students attend class blocks 1-4. Tuesdays and Thursdays are "Gold" Days in which students attend class blocks 5-8. Students attend all 8 classes on Fridays.



New Parent Orientation will be held in May. More information will be shared at a later date. During New Parent Orientation we will cover topics such as:

- **Athletics**
- **Student Clubs & Organizations**
- **School Operations**
- **Uniforms**
- **And More!**