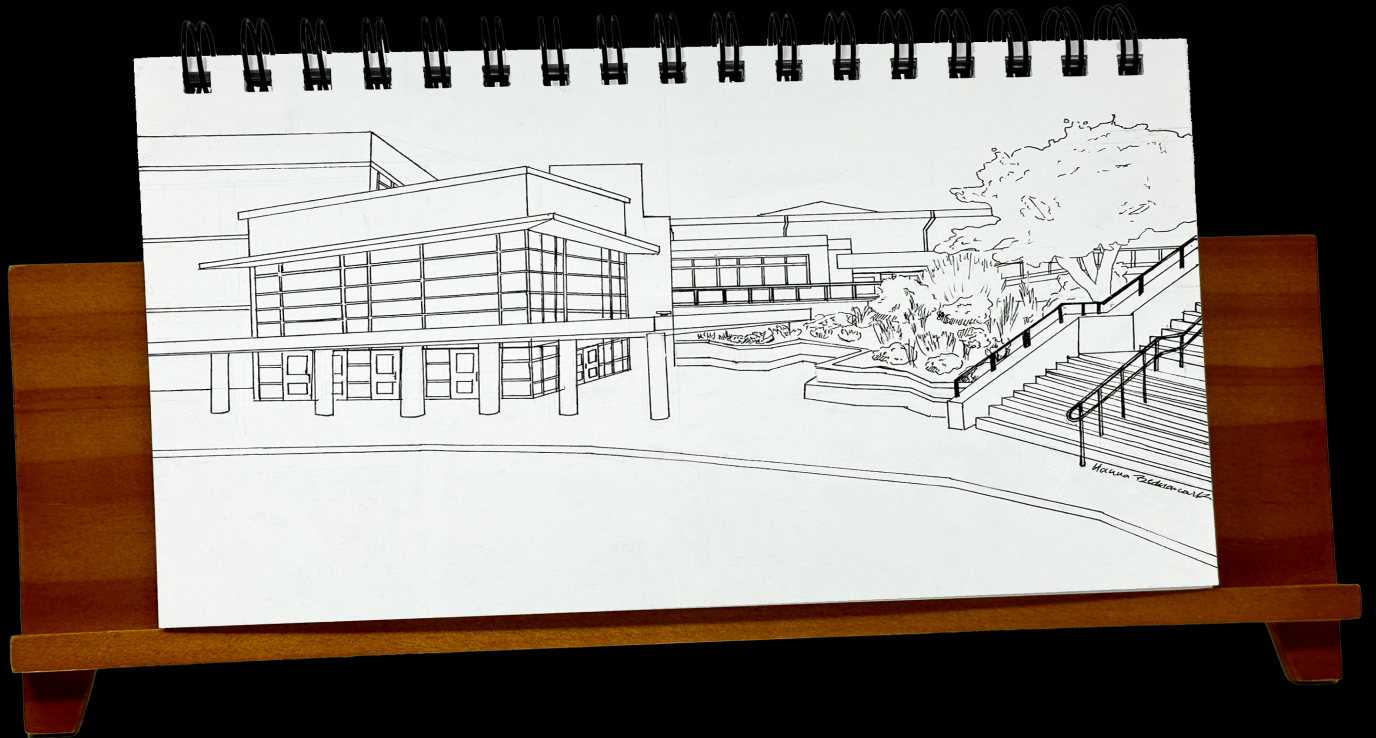


BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL



PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2024-2025

Hanna Bednarczyk '27

**Program of Studies Lite
Incoming Grade 10**

Welcome to the course selection process for the 2024-2025 school year!

Berlin Public Schools utilizes an electronic platform for the Program of Studies. Full course descriptions and additional information can be found online at bhs.berlinschools.org (Select: About Us → School Publications → Program of Studies).

Course selection is an important part of yearly academic planning that helps students stay on track for graduation, explore areas of interest, and prepare for life after high school. This condensed version is intended to provide initial planning tools, course title information, and instructions for how to select classes through the online PowerSchool portal. **The online Program of Studies is your primary resource throughout this important process. Please refer to it for detailed course descriptions that will help you make informed choices.**

Graduation Requirements

In order to satisfy the high school graduation requirements within Berlin Public Schools, a student must have satisfactorily completed his or her prescribed course of study; completed a senior capstone project; demonstrated proficiency in basic skills identified by the Berlin Board of Education as established performance standards in literacy, mathematics, and science; and satisfied the legally mandated number and distribution of credits required to graduate from high school. The prescribed courses of study must include:

Humanities	9.0 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.0 English (including 1.0 English 9 or Advanced English 9 and 1.0 American Literature or Advanced American Studies) 3.0 Social Studies (including 1.0 Civics and 1.0 US History) 1.0 Fine Arts (including any combination of Art, Music, or Theatre) 1.0 electives from English, Social Studies, World Language, Art, Music, or Theatre
STEM	9.0 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.0 Mathematics 3.0 Science including Biology and Physical Science 3.0 electives in Science, Mathematics, or Technology Education; designated Business courses
PE and Health and Safety	2.0 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.0 Physical Education 1.0 Health and Wellness
World Language	1.0 credit	
Career and College Readiness	1.0 credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5 Personal Finance 0.5 elective in Business, Family & Consumer Sciences, or Technology Education
Capstone	1.0 credit	
Electives	4.0 credits	

Required Total: 27 credits

Minimum Credit Requirements

All students in grades 9 through 11 are required to enroll in the course equivalent of seven (7) credits each year and a minimum of six (6) credits in grade 12. Under extraordinary circumstances, the high school principal may exempt students from this requirement. Students can be considered on target for graduating in four years by achieving the following credit totals:

At the end of:	BHS students should have:
9 th Grade	6.75 credits
10 th Grade	13.50 credits
11 th Grade	20.25 credits
12 th Grade	27.00 credits

Program Planning

Careful program planning by parents/guardians and students is of critical importance. The course of studies followed while in high school is the foundation upon which future success will be based. A broad program of studies will enable students to prepare for college or employment upon completion of their senior year. The complete listing of subjects offered can be found in the course descriptions section of the online Program of Studies. While selection of a program of studies is the primary responsibility of the student and his or her parents/guardians, they are advised to consult with and make use of the broad experience and professional background of our faculty and school counseling staff. A wide variety of material such as college and career websites and the school counseling website including the Naviance program is available.

Course Selection Guidelines

Students receive teacher recommendations in PowerSchool. Parents and students are asked to discuss course selections and recommendations together. Students will enter course selections into PowerSchool. The school counselor will review student selections individually with each student to evaluate the program as it relates to each student's personal goals. Courses are then scheduled according to the spaces available and the period the sections are offered. Classes may be cancelled by administration. Reasons include low enrollment as well as staffing and space constraints.

Levels of Instruction, Prerequisites, and Placement in Sequential Courses

Courses identified by Roman numerals are sequential courses and must be taken in numerical order. For example: Spanish I must be taken and passed before a student may take Spanish II. Failure of a course will require making up the deficiency before going on to the next course in sequence. Two or more courses in the same sequence may not be taken in one school semester. In order to provide for the needs of students, some courses are ability grouped. Groupings include the following levels: *Honors* courses, which include Advanced Placement, College Career Pathways (CCP), SCSU Early College (EC), and UConn Early College Experience (ECE); *Advanced* courses; *College Preparatory* courses; and *Resource* courses. Many courses are heterogeneous so that students may benefit from a wide range of experiences in a challenging curriculum.

Honors Challenge: The Honors Challenge is offered for select courses in elective areas that are heterogeneously grouped. This opportunity is available to students who have a strong desire to strengthen their depth of knowledge and development of skills in a given course. Students will have options to take on more complex, in-depth exploration of course material through a variety of assignments or assessments, independent projects, co-curricular, or experiential activities. Honors Challenge expectations are developed by each elective department for designated courses and will be available from teachers at the start of each course. Students will earn Honors credit upon successful completion of the Honors Challenge expectations as outlined for each designated course and successful completion of the course.

Course Override Policy

Berlin High School supports students interested in further challenging themselves in their academic pursuits. While teachers will recommend students for particular courses, students may choose to enroll in a course other than the recommended course with the use of a Berlin High School override application. Signatures are required by the student, parent/guardian, teacher, and counselor which indicates that a consultation has taken place. Students who request to override a recommended course may be required to complete supplemental work over the summer for the overridden course.

Grade Point Average Differentials: Differentials are added to certain courses in consideration of difficulty for purposes of establishing the student's cumulative grade point average. For courses that are designated as Honors, Advanced Placement, College Career Pathways, SCSU Early College, or UConn Early College Experience, eight points will be added. For Advanced courses, four points will be added. Note: The points are not added to the grade itself, but are computed into the grade points when factoring GPA. *If a student levels down from an honors or advanced course, they are not awarded any differential points from the former course.*

Schedule Change Policy

Students in grades 9-11 are required to carry a minimum of 7.0 credits per year and a minimum of 6.0 credits in grade 12 in accordance with Board of Education policy.

- Course changes will not be honored after the fifth school day, with the exception of course level changes.
- Core course level changes only will be honored until the last day of the first marking period. Should it be decided that a student is struggling and in need of a level change, a conversation must take place with the student, teacher, counselor, and parent/guardian prior to the end of the first marking period. The Supervisor of School Counseling will review the request and collaborate with building administration for a final determination. Evidence of progress monitoring, class assessments, and interventions must indicate the student's difficulty with the class to warrant the possible change.
- Any course from which a student has withdrawn beyond the aforementioned date (end of first marking period) *with the exception of mandatory core courses*, will result in a "W" on their transcript.
- Partial credit may be awarded if the student has completed an entire marking period with a passing grade of 60% or higher.
- Withdrawals may be requested through the student's school counselor and assistant principal for review. There is no guarantee that withdrawals will be approved.
- Students requesting specific teachers will not be considered.

Course Registration Timeline

- **February 5:** Students in grade 8 receive registration information and the Program of Studies
- **February 12:** Students in grades 9-11 receive registration information and the Program of Studies is made available online
- **February 12-25:** PowerSchool is open for students to make course requests
- **February 13:** BHS Course Exposition for incoming freshmen and parents/guardians
- **May:** School counselors meet individually with students to review course requests
- **5 Days After Start of School:** Deadline to make course changes with school counselor*
- **Last Day of Q1:** Deadline for core course level changes which may be honored pending a conversation/meeting with the student, teacher, counselor, and parent/guardian

* A course withdrawal request made after this deadline requires administrative review for approval. Any approved "withdrawal" will result in a "W" that will be reflected on the student's transcript.

Course Planning Worksheet 2024-2025: Suggested Sequence

GRADE 10

This is a worksheet to help you plan your program with your school counselor.

Student Name: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

Career Interest: _____ School Counselor: _____

Students in grades 9-11 must carry a minimum of 7.0 credits and students in grade 12 must carry a minimum of 6.0 credits per year to be considered both a full-time student and eligible for Honor Roll status.

10 th Grade	Credits	Course Name	Total Credits
Humanities: English	1.00		
Humanities: Civics	1.00		
STEM: Mathematics	1.00		
STEM: Science (Biology)	1.00 to 1.50		
PE: Grade 10	0.50		
World Language (if appropriate)	1.00		
Electives: STEM, Career & College Readiness, Fine Arts	1.00 to 2.00		
Total Credits:			

Berlin Public Schools Graduation Requirements

Humanities	9.0 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.0 English (including 1.0 English 9 or Advanced English 9 and 1.0 American Literature or Advanced American Studies) 3.0 Social Studies (including 1.0 Civics and 1.0 US History) 1.0 Fine Arts (including any combination of Art, Music, or Theatre) 1.0 electives from English, Social Studies, World Language (beyond required 1.0), Art, Music, or Theatre
STEM	9.0 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.0 Mathematics 3.0 Science (including 1.0 Biology and 1.0 Physical Science) 3.0 electives in Science, Mathematics, Tech Ed, or designated Business courses
PE and Health and Safety	2.0 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.0 Physical Education 1.0 Health and Wellness
World Language	1.0 credit	
Career and College Readiness	1.0 credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5 Personal Finance 0.5 elective in Business, FCS, or Tech Ed
Capstone	1.0 credit	
Electives	4.0 credits	

11 th Grade	Credit
Humanities: English	1.00
Humanities: US History	1.00
STEM: Mathematics	1.00
STEM: Science	1.00 to 1.50
PE: Health & Wellness II	0.50
Junior Workshop	0.25
World Language (if appropriate)	1.00
Electives: Humanities, STEM, Career & College Readiness, Fine Arts	1.00 to 2.00
Total Credits:	

12 th Grade	Credit
Humanities: English	1.00
Capstone	1.00
PE: Elective	0.50
Electives: Humanities, STEM, Career & College Readiness, Fine Arts	3.50
Total Credits:	

Required Total: 27 credits

