

Graduation Planning Guide and Requirements



Blue Ridge High School

5058 School Rd.
New Milford, PA 18801

Table of Contents

Letter from the Administration	1
Graduation Requirement Information	
Graduation Requirements	2
Keystone Exams	3
Junior/Senior Important Dates (SAT, ACT, Financial Aid)	3
Earning College Credits at Blue Ridge/AP/Dual Enrollment Programs	
Keystone College Dual Enrollment Courses	4
Lackawanna College Dual Enrollment.....	5
Advanced Placement.....	6
Course Selection Process	6
Credit Recovery Program	6
NCAA Academic Eligibility Requirements	6



Blue Ridge High School
5058 School Rd. New Milford, PA 18801
Phone: 570-465-3144 • Fax: 570-465-2236 •
www.brsd.org

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

The Blue Ridge HS is committed to providing a program of studies which will prepare all students to succeed in achieving their post high school goals.

Experience has shown that most students' educational needs are best satisfied by selecting a comprehensive and challenging array of courses each year. To assist students and parents in making the most appropriate selections, the following items are recommended for careful consideration:

1. Future college, career or workforce goals
2. Personal strengths
3. Willingness to apply effort

This Planning Guide describes the high school program of studies available to both It also contains important information related to graduation requirements and current policies. Please read the Guide carefully and do not hesitate to seek assistance from counselors, teachers and administrators in selecting the best distribution of courses.

Educationally yours,

Mr. Matthew J. Nebzydoski, Principal Curriculum and Instruction

MS/HS Principal Mr. Peter Supko,

Mrs. Paula Finn, Junior/Senior School Counselor

Graduation Coursework Requirements

Students are urged to make the best use of their time by enrolling in courses at appropriate levels of difficulty that will offer them a challenging program of studies throughout their four years. This generally means that students should earn more than the minimum number of credits required for graduation. A total of 24 HS credits, demonstrated proficiency on the Keystone Exams or Project Based Assessment and the successful completion of the HS Career Exploration Project are required for graduation and a diploma from Blue Ridge School District. All students are required to take a full schedule of credits each year. NOTE: These graduation requirements are governed by Blue Ridge School Board Policy #217 and Chapter 4 of the PA School Code.

GENERAL ACADEMIC RECOMMENDATIONS ENGLISH

English 91.0 credit
English 101.0 credit
English 11/AP..... 1.0 credit
English 12/AP..... 1.0 credit

SOCIAL STUDIES

American Studies I (grade 9)..... 1.0 credit
American Studies II (grade 10)... 1.0 credit
U.S. Government (grade 11)... 1.0 credit
Global/Econ (grade 12)... 1.0 credit

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics Courses4.0 credits
including Algebra I

SCIENCE

Science Courses 4.0 credits
**Including Biology

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Four Years/Courses PE Minimum

plus one year of Health.

PE 9..... 0.25 credits
PE 10..... 0.25 credits
PE 11..... 0.25 credits
PE 12..... 0.25 credits
HS Health 0.25 credits

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

Elective Credit..... 8 credits total

*Courses at the Career Center (CTC) and COOP may be substituted for elective requirements.

SENIOR PROJECT

In addition to the credit requirements above, BRSD requires that seniors, as a condition of graduation, complete a culminating Senior Project. The procedures relating to this requirement are introduced in detail to students beginning in the freshman year and components are accomplished during the student's High School career. They include career exploration, job shadowing, job shadow reflection paper, resume development and the senior interview.

TOTAL MINIMUM CREDITS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION

24.0 credits

Pennsylvania Keystone Assessment Requirements for Graduation

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania created Chapter 4 – Academic Standards and Assessment “to establish rigorous academic standards and assessments ... to facilitate the improvement of student achievement and to provide parents and communities a measure by which school performance can be determined.”

This document provides information on some of the changes to high school graduation requirements. For the full document with ALL changes, please visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) website

http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/current_initiatives/19720/chapter_4/1120975.

Graduation Requirements through 2015-16
Demonstration of proficiency in English Language Arts and Mathematics on either the State assessments administered in grades 8-12 or local assessments aligned with the academic standards.

Graduation Requirements beginning in 2016-17
Proficiency on the Algebra, Literature and Biology Keystone Exams or Advanced Placement Exam or International Baccalaureate Exam that includes academic content comparable to the appropriate Keystone Exam or completion of a related project based assessment. The project based assessment must be approved by the Superintendent or designee.

Graduation Requirements beginning in 2018-19
Proficiency on the Algebra, English Language Arts and Biology Keystone Exams or Advanced Placement Exam or International Baccalaureate Exam that includes academic content comparable to the appropriate Keystone Exam or completion of a related project based assessment. The project based assessment must be approved by the Superintendent or designee.

IMPORTANT DATES for JUNIORS AND SENIORS

SAT Registration Dates and Deadlines

Test Dates	Test	U.S. Registration Deadlines (Expire at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, U.S.A.)	
		Regular	Late (a fee applies)
October 3, 2015 Current SAT	SAT & Subject Tests	September 3, 2015	September 18, 2015 (for mailed registrations) September 22, 2015 (for registrations made online or by phone)
November 7, 2015 Current SAT	SAT & Subject Tests	October 9, 2015	October 23, 2015 (for mailed registrations) October 27, 2015 (for registrations made online or by phone)
December 5, 2015 Current SAT	SAT & Subject Tests	November 5, 2015	November 20, 2015 (for mailed registrations) November 23, 2015 (for registrations made online or by phone)
January 23, 2016 Current SAT	SAT & Subject Tests	December 28, 2015	January 8, 2016 (for mailed registrations) January 12, 2016 (for registrations made online or by phone)
March 5, 2016 Redesigned SAT	SAT only	February 5, 2016	February 19, 2016 (for mailed registrations) February 23, 2016 (for registrations made online or by phone)
May 7, 2016 Redesigned SAT	SAT & Subject Tests	April 8, 2016	April 22, 2016 (for mailed registrations) April 26, 2016 (for registrations made online or by phone)
June 4, 2016 Redesigned SAT	SAT & Subject Tests	May 5, 2016	May 20, 2016 (for mailed registrations) May 25, 2016 (for registrations made online or by phone)

ACT Registration Dates 15-16

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 12, 2015	August 7, 2015	August 8–21, 2015
October 24, 2015	September 18, 2015	September 19–October 2, 2015
December 12, 2015	November 6, 2015	November 7–20, 2015
February 6, 2016*	January 8, 2016	January 9–15, 2016
April 9, 2016	March 4, 2016	March 5–18, 2016
June 11, 2016**	May 6, 2016	May 7–20, 2016

FAFSA Financial Aid Deadlines 2015-2016

Federal Deadline

Online applications must be submitted by midnight Central Time, June 30, 2016.

Any corrections or updates must be submitted by midnight Central Time, September 17, 2016.

State Deadline

Pennsylvania - All first-time applicants enrolled in a: community college; business/trade/technical school; hospital school of nursing; designated Pennsylvania Open-Admission institution; or non-transferable two-year program - August 1, 2015 by midnight, Central Time.

All other applicants - May 1, 2015 by midnight, Central Time.

College Deadline

Check with the college(s) you are interested in attending. You may also want to ask your college about its definition of an application deadline - whether it is the date the college receives your FAFSA, or the date your FAFSA is processed.

Earning College Credit at Blue Ridge

Dual Enrollment

Blue Ridge offers dual enrollment opportunities from two local colleges. Students enrolled in this program take honors level and academic electives that meet the same high level of rigor as the equivalent college course. Depending on the course either Keystone College or Lackawanna College will grant college credit for successful completion with a qualifying grade. Participating students pay \$100/credit hour, a significant discount from the standard tuition at most colleges and universities. This program may benefit the college-bound student by allowing them to earn up to a year's worth of credits while still a HS student. Students are advised to contact their prospective college to inquire how the credits will transfer and apply to a chosen degree program.

BR Courses Earning Keystone College Credit
BIOL 1125: General Biology I – 4 credits <i>Blue Ridge: AP Biology</i>
ENGL 1110: College Writing II: 3 credits <i>Blue Ridge: AP English Lit & Comp</i>
MATH 2150: Calculus I – 4 credits <i>Blue Ridge: AP Calculus</i>
POSC 1110: American National Government - 3 credits <i>Blue Ridge: AP US Government & Politics</i>
SOCI 1110: Sociology – 3 credits <i>Blue Ridge: Sociology</i>



Blue Ridge Courses Earning Lackawanna College Credit
<i>College Algebra (MAT 120) 3 credits BRHS – Honors Pre-Calculus</i>
<i>Introduction to Psychology (PSY 105) 3 credits BRHS – Intro to Psychology</i>
<i>General Chemistry I (CHM 120) 4Credits BRHS – Honors Chemistry</i>
<i>Principles of Accounting (ACC 105) 3 credits BRHS – Accounting II</i>
<i>Effective Speaking (COM 125) 3 credits BRHS – Public Speaking</i>
<i>Macroeconomics (ECO 105) 3 credits BRHS – AP Economics</i>
<i>General Physics I (PHY 120) 4 credits BRHS – Honors Physics</i>



AP Courses Offered at Blue Ridge HS
<i>AP English Literature & Composition</i>
<i>AP Calculus AB</i>
<i>AP Biology</i>
<i>AP American Government</i>
<i>AP Macroeconomics</i>
<i>AP English Language and Composition</i>
<i>AP American History</i>

Advanced Placement at Blue Ridge
What is the benefit of AP?

The greatest benefit of AP is the experience of taking academic courses in an enriched environment with classmates who, are seeking intellectual challenge, are motivated to learn, and are committed to excellence. The courses offer students opportunities to delve more deeply into content, research in a scholarly fashion, and learn in a college-like inquiry based manner. AP: Most four-year colleges in the United States and colleges in more than 60 other countries give students credit, advanced placement or both on the basis of AP Exam scores. By entering college with AP credits, students will have the time to move into upper level courses, pursue a double-major or study abroad. Students must take the AP exam in order to be eligible for college credit. More information on the Advanced Placement Program can be obtained from the school counseling office or by visiting the website <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html>

Blue Ridge High Credit Recovery Program

Students who have already taken a course and did not achieve a passing grade are eligible for the PLATO online credit recovery program. Counselors can set up courses provide students with login information. Participants can utilize any computer or internet device to complete the course. Students can also seek the assistance of subject area teachers during flex each day. Upon successful completion of an assigned PLATO course, the failing grade will be changed to a 70 on the student’s permanent transcript. For more information contact your student’s guidance counselor.

High School Course Selection Process

At the time of course selection for the next school year, students should make a very careful choice of courses in cooperation with parents/guardians, teachers and counselors. A complete listing and description of courses can be found in the course selection handbook. <http://www.brsd.org/BRHS/1307-High-School-Course-Selection.html>

Scheduling Policy

1. All students will schedule a minimum of 6.99 credits.
2. Students are expected to consult with their parents/guardians in planning their schedule. A parent/guardian signature is required for the proposed schedule of each student. Schedule changes will not occur after the start of the school year.

Drop/Add Policy

Course selections should be thoughtfully made after adequate discussion with parents/guardians, teachers, and school counselors. Prior successes, failures, individual interests, aptitudes, as well as future college and career plans should be taken into consideration when a student selects courses. Due to the fact that course changes have the potential to cause scheduling and staffing conflicts, ***all schedule changes must be made prior to the start of the school year.*** Requests will be honored based on availability.

*All schedule changes to core classes (English, math, science, and social studies) require both parent/guardian and administrative approval. A schedule change will not occur unless it meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. The schedule change is requested within the first six day cycle of the 2015-16 school year.
2. A change in the student's educational or career plan requires a change of electives for admission to a particular program.
3. A student is in need of meeting credit requirements for graduation.
4. The student wishes to be enrolled in a more rigorous curriculum.

NCAA Requirements

Course Work Requirements for NCAA Athletics and NCAA Scholarships

Here is an overview of the basic NCAA eligibility criteria. Visit the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#), the authoritative source for more details.

Division I: 16 Core Course	Division II: 14 Core Courses (if enrolling prior to August 1, 2013) 16 Core Courses (if enrolling on or after August 1, 2013)
4 years of English	3 years of English
3 years of math (algebra 1 or higher level)	2 years of math (algebra 1 or higher level)
2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered)	2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered)
1 extra year of English, math, or science	2 extra years of English, math or science; 3 extra years if enrolling on or after August 1, 2013
2 years of social science	2 years of social science
4 years of additional core courses (from any category above, or in a foreign language, non-doctrinal religion or philosophy)	3 years of additional core courses (from any category above, or in a foreign language, non-doctrinal religion or philosophy); 4 extra years if enrolling on or after August 1, 2013

NCAA Academic Standards

Division I eligibility

- All students entering college must have completed **16 core courses** in high school.
- Students must earn a minimum required GPA in core courses and a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches this GPA on a sliding scale, which can be found in the [NCAA Eligibility Center Quick Reference Guide \(.pdf/270K\)](#). Requires *Adobe Reader* (latest version recommended).

Division II eligibility

- All students entering college prior to August 1, 2013, must have completed **14 core courses** in high school.
- All students entering college on or after August 1, 2013, must have completed **16 core courses** in high school.
- Standards require a minimum GPA of 2.0 and a combined minimum SAT score of 820 or sum ACT score of 68.

NCAA core courses definition

- An academic course in one or a combination of these areas: English, mathematics, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy.
- A four-year college preparatory course and a course at or above the high school's regular academic level, for example, an AP® class or outside college course.

Remedial courses, or those taught at a slower pace or that cover less content are not admissible. And not all classes that meet high school graduation requirements meet NCAA course work requirements.

Help your students check your high school's list of approved core courses on the [NCAA Eligibility Center High School Portal](#).

Meeting NCAA admission requirements does not guarantee admission into college — it simply determines whether students may participate in athletics during their freshman year. Students must follow each member college's admission policies and apply directly to that college.