## 2024-25

## BHS Program of Studies Proposed Changes Executive Summary

January 23, 2023

Blue text: New/additions
Red text: Removed
*Grammar, punctuation, and stylistic changes highlighted in document for all content areas

| COUNSELING |  |  |
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| Page(s) | Proposed Change | Rationale |
| 10 | Modification of scheduling timeline for students | Goal is to support students by having schedules in hand for the following school year when they depart in June. |
|  | - In Aprit March, students receive the list of the courses they were recommended for and requested. <br> - Final Tentative schedules for the coming school year will be available in June. are in Aspenduring the summer <br> - Students will be permitted to make schedule changes prior to leaving for summer vacation. <br> ARENA DAY <br> Fo help facilitate the schedule change process for students at Bedford High School, the BHS Counseling Department hosts Arena Day at the end of August prior to the start of sehool. This process enables students to begin school with a complete-schedule they are comfortable with to fulfill graduation requirements. |  |
| 10 | Modify level change request process | Remove barriers for students to stretch themselves |
|  | LEVEL CHANGE REQUEST PROCESS <br> Teachers make course placement recommendations based upon their knowledge of the student's achievement, academic strength, and motivation. On occasion, when aspirations of students and caregivers conflict with the professional recommendations of the teachers, is ars appealing the teacer's rement. In these cases, students are encouraged to have conversations first with their teacher and then school counselor about potentially overriding these recommendations. In addition, €caregivers are encouraged to first have a conversation with the recommending teacher first before initiating this process. <br> The steps for students and/or parents/guardians to request alevelchange are as follows: <br> 1. Obtain a Complete a "Level-Change/Appeal-Request Form" which is wailable in either the midelle or high sehool counseling office or print from the BHS Counseling web page. The form asks for both student and parent/guardian to state reasons for requesting the change. <br> z. Complete-and submit the form to the BHS office for the appropriate Program Administrator by March 24th 22, 2024. <br> 3. The appropriate- Program Administrator will review the request and will contact the parent/guardian by phe of email regarding the decision. Requests submitted after March z4th 22, 2024 will be considered on a space available basis in addition to the standard review居s. |  |


| AAC |  |  |
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| Page(s) | Proposed Change | Rationale |
| 14 | Introduce Mentoring program | Facilitate leadership opportunities for upperclassmen and continue to improve upon collaboration within school community |
|  | MENTORING PROGRAM <br> Prerequisite: Application and interview required <br> This program will provide students with an opportunity to mentor freshman students in an English, math, social studies, or science classrooms under the guidance of the classroom teachers. Mentors work with students in small groups and on a one-to-one basis. Mentors are expected to demonstrate behaviors and skills which will assist class members in attaining academic success. In addition, mentors must complete coursework as directed by the teacher. Mentors will also attend an orientation training session before the start of the school year. Mentors are also expected to attend several other meetings throughout the year. Participation in this course is selective and limited to 2 to 6 mentors per academic class. Students interested must complete the application form, secure a teacher's recommendation, and interview with the subject matter Program Administrator. Grades are on a pass/fail basis. |  |
| ART |  |  |
| Page(s) | Proposed Change | Rationale |
| $\begin{aligned} & 18-19, \\ & 20 \end{aligned}$ | Remove Photography and Photo Intern courses | Students enrolling in manipulative courses ceramics \& sculpture, plans to develop a more robust digital art program which is more relevant and cost-effective |
|  | РНОTOGRAPHI (AMinor) College Prep Course \#7043 <br> Prerequisite: None <br> Fhis course is designed to help you to become a more thoughtful, creative, and visually aware photographer, no matter what kind of eamera you use at any given monent. The photographic processes of 35 与mmeanera operation, black and white film clevetopment and printing, and compositional design are applied to ereative projects in areas including. the development of semi-abstract images, deseriptive and interpretive visuatessays, envirmental-studies, and portraiture. Creative-expression and exploration of persolinterests through the medium of photography is stressed, but suceess in this course also requires the ability to devetop disciplimed work habits to master technical material. stuctents will engage in a variety of visual probtem solving. <br> Prerequisite: Photography 1 <br> This advanced course chatlenges students to build upon the technieal and expressive-skills achieved in Photography I. Students will explore-experinmental and alternative approaches and materials, and will also expand their competence with traditional photographic processes. Topies and projects inelude, but are not timited to, high contrast photography, elose-up photography, montage, and the analysis and exptoration of photegraphie style. Strong emphasis will be placed upon individually eoneeived rojeets, whieh define, refine, and extend the student's personalvision and style. In addition, students may be ealledupon to assist in aetivities of service to the sehoot community, such as visual artwork for the yearbook, sehool newspaper, and speciat ents. |  |


|  | PHOTOGRAPHY II-(Minor) (Alajor) <br> Prerequisite: Photography H <br> This advanced course ehallenges students to - 6 Photography II. White the teacher will provide sp active rote in the shaping of their projects andexplo to discover conneetions between photography an partieutar theme, and the use of photographic inna inelude the issues of reality vs. illusion, pers photographers, and the interrelationships of tandse <br> ART, CERAMICS, РHOTO INTERN <br> Prerequisite: Art I, Ceramics I, or Photography The Art, or Ceramics-or Photograpy Intern will assis ready and updated for classes. Art Interns will inventory of art supplies. Ceramic Interns will be tools. Photography Interns will be responsible for making ctodging and burning toots, doing simple materiats. | $\begin{array}{ll}\text { College Prep } & \text { Course \#7063 } \\ \text { Course \#7064 }\end{array}$ <br> d upon the technieal and expressive skills achieved in fie assignments, students will also be expected to take an tions. The course will be struetured to encourage students ther media and diseiplines, the in depth exploration of a ry in conjunetion with other types of researeh. Topies will etival vs. atmospherie space, ease studies of selected ephotography to the diseiplines of geography and history. <br> College Prep (Pass/Fail) <br> Course \#7011 <br> or program director approval <br> the classroom teacher by keeping supplies and equipment responsible for the ongoing organization, cleaning and sponsible for recycling clay, organizing glazes and cleaning ing ehemieats, cleaning andorganizing at enlarger stations, camrera tests, and testing darkroom techniques andfor |
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| ENGLISH |  |  |
| Page(s) | Proposed Change | Rationale |
| 28 | Modify English IV: African-American Literature course description | Reflect current curriculum in course |
|  | ENGLISH IV: AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE Unleveled <br> Course \#0430 <br> The focus of this course is on the development of black writing in America, from the colonial to the contemporary. The readings, both fiction and nonfiction, cover a panoply of experiences-from slavery to the riches of the Harlem Renaissance, and from the struggles against institutional racism, to the fight for civil rights. The course will close with African-American contributions to contemporary life and literature. Sample texts exeerpts include Between the World and Me, Binti, and Things Fall Apart. Aarrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas, I Know Why Caged Bird Sings, and Friday Night Lights. |  |
| 28 | Modify English IV: Asian-American Literature course description | Reflect current curriculum in course |
|  | ENGLISH IV: ASIAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE Unleveled <br> Course \#0440 <br> Drawing from works such as Bill Moyer's Becoming Ameriean:. The Chinese Experience, Helen Zia's Asian American Dreams, the fietion and nonfiction collection Growing Up-Asian Americen, and Gene Luen Yang's Ahese Drawing from works such as Tracy Chee's We are Not Free, Gene Luen Yang's American Born Chinese, and Robin Ha's Almost American Girl, as well has an assortment of documentaries, feature films, and online resources, students will examine the Asian-American experience and investigate their impact on America and, conversely, the impact life in America has had on them. Students are encouraged to bring in their own families' immigration stories to compare with those explored in the class curriculum. Guest speakers and field trips will also be important aspects of the course. One of the goals of the class is to supplement the existing curriculum taught in American Perspectives and American History. |  |
| MATH |  |  |
| Page(s) | Proposed Change | Rationale |


| 34 | Remove Continuing Algebra II/Pre-Calculus course | Final phase as part of plan to remove continuing math course track. All other continuing courses were previously removed. |
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|  | GONTINUNG ALGEBRA II/ PRE-CALCULUS Honors Course \#2324 <br> Prerequisite:- Feacher recommendation <br> Fhis course is the thired course in the -ontinuing sequence. It begins with a review of topies covered in the thtroduction to Algebra 11 portion of the previous course, ineluding quadratic equations, relations, and functions: following the review, students explore-powers, roots, and radieals, exponential and logarithmie functions, polynmials and polyn mial functions, rational functions, conic seetions, sequenees and series. Students will eonelude the year with a study of trigonometry ineluding right triangle trigonometry, inverse trig functions, Law of Sines and Cosines, graphing and identities.- تhis course will be discontinued 2024-2025. |  |
| 35 | Modify Geometry course descriptions | Reflect current curriculum in course |
|  | GEOMETRY <br> College Prep <br> Course \#2203 <br> Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation <br> Aligned to the Common Core State Standards, our Geometry course covers the fundamentals of Euclidean Geometry including constructions, transformations, congruence, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, circles, geometric measurement and dimension, and coordinate Geometry. Greater emphasis is placed on applications of properties than on formal geometric proofs; however, students are expected to develop a basie beginning understanding of deductive reasoning. that supporiver a majerity 10th grade course incorporates MCAS-style practice throughout the year and students take a formal MCAS practice test. <br> GEOMETRY <br> Honors <br> Course \#2204 <br> Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation <br> Aligned to the Common Core State Standards, our Geometry course covers the fundamentals of Euclidean Geometry including constructions, transformations, congruence, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, circles, geometric measurement and dimension, and coordinate Geometry. Two-column geometric proofs of theorems are embedded in some units of study, and proofs are "fill in," meaning students will fill in the details of the proof given a provided structure of some statements and reasons. Algebra skills and concepts are reviewed throughout the year where needed. Ninth graders taking Geometry have successfully completed a full-year Algebra I course in middle school. <br> GEOMETRY <br> High Honors <br> Course \#2205 <br> Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation <br> Aligned to the Common Core State Standards, our Geometry course covers the fundamentals of Euclidean Geometry including constructions, transformations, congruence, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, circles, geometric measurement and dimension, and coordinate Geometry. This is a proof-based course where students write formal, two-column proofs in the majority of units. Students will learn to write proofs "from scratch," meaning they are expected to create the statements and reasons themselves. A solid mastery and retention of Algebra I concepts and skills is expected. Proofs of theors areder unit. Ninth graders taking Geometry have successfully completed a full-year Algebra I course in middle school. |  |
| OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION |  |  |
| Page(s) | Proposed Change | Rationale |
| 38 | Remove Hospitality course | Lack of interest in the course, has run only once since 2019, DECA opportunities instead |
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|  | The student will develop-skills in visualization, multi view drawings, pictorial drawings, auxiliary and sectional views, measurement and dimensioning, and the proper use of drafting toots and equipment. At this level, drawing will be done using drafting machines, CAD drawings and design. The acquisition of these skills will enable the student to interpret industrial drawings and reinforee concepts learned in mathematies. This course provides an excellent background for any student interested in the fields of engineering, manufacturing, or ennstruction. <br> BRAFTING TECHNOLOGY <br> Unleveled <br> Course-\#6120 <br> Prerequisite: Drafting Technology <br> Students will use researeh and development procedures to solve problems related to the fields of engineering and architecture. Skills will be expanded to include computer applications CAD/CAM/CNC and practice in recording ideas, visualizing probable form, evaluating data, making decisions, and the presentation of workable solutions. The first half of this course will focus on drawing and practices while the second half will focus on an introduction to Solid Modeling and Computer Aided Design. After learning basic CAD techniques, students will design and develop part and assembly models and drawings common to the field in order to build actual working assemblies. <br> BRAFTINGTECHNOLOGY II <br> Unleveled <br> Course \#6130 <br> Prerequisite: Drafting Technelogy I and II <br> th this course, students will learn advaneed Solid Modeling Techniques common to Mechanieal Engineering, beyond those developed in Drafting 1 and 11 . Students will design models, drawings, and pictorial/renderings eommonly used in Mechanical Engineering. Students will also have the opportunity to perform Structural and Ahetion Analyses and Design Studies in-order to optimize their designs. Finally, they may have an opportunityte engineer and build solutions for problems or opportunities as presented by members of the Bedford Schoot community using equipment both internal and external to the school. By providing solutions to these eustomers, they will experience-opportunities similar to those faced by engineers in various fields. |
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| 43 | Remove Engineering course Lower enrollments as students have gravitated <br> towards the Tech. Ed. courses |
|  | ENGINEERING AND-3D MODELING <br> Prerequisite: Basic knowledge-of geometry <br> Heners <br> Course \#6214 <br> Foday's engineering is evolving and the skills needed from conception to implementation are requiring students to develop skills that allow them to learn and practice the process. There-are radieal ehanges in the way things are-designed, made, analyzed, and communieated. This course-is designed for students wishing to pursue-an understanding of the engineering process from analyzing and interpreting engineering design challenges to designing and ereating working models that meet speeific requirements and parameters. Students will develop EAD, 3D Nodeling, Simple and Complex Design, and Computer Numerie Design skills. The goal is to provide students with a big picture-of the Engineering process through development and implementation of skills. students are expected to have a base knowledge-of Geometry. |
| PERFORMING ARTS |  |
| Page(s) | Proposed Change $\quad$ Rationale |
| 46 | Introduce Percussion Specialty elective $\quad \begin{aligned} & \text { Provide specialized instruction for the } \\ & \text { percussion section }\end{aligned}$ |
|  | BAND: PERCUSSION SPECIALTY <br> Honors <br> Course \# <br> Prerequisite: Previous participation in the Band program or approval of the instructor <br> This class would enable percussion students from the BHS Band program (only) to learn percussion-specific skills in a separate setting while mastering percussion parts for the Band ensemble. Students will have focused time with the teacher to learn snare drum rudiments and rolls, timpani technique, mallet instrument technique, and additional skills in auxiliary percussion. At home practice is expected. Students will perform with the BHS Band in |


|  | evening concerts throughout the year. Concert participation is mandatory. Prior to each concert there will be a mandatory, evening rehearsal. Grades will be based upon rehearsal participation and behavior, concert and dress rehearsal attendance, and recording assignments. |  |
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| SCIENCE |  |  |
| Page(s) | Proposed Change | Rationale |
| 53 | Remove Media component from Forensic Science course; Add College Prep level as an option for students | Media is no longer emphasized within the curriculum; High demand for the course and want to increase access |
|  | FORENSIC SCIENCE (Lab)/FORENSTES IN MEDAA Honors <br> Course \#3604 <br> Prerequisite: Grade 12 and Teacher Recommendation <br> Forensic science is a senior-level course rich in exploration and lab investigation which applies many disciplines of scientific study such as biology/anatomy, chemistry, and physics to solving crimes. The course examines the application of science to those criminal and civil laws that are enforced by police agencies in a criminal justice system. Major topics include processing a crime scene, collecting and preserving evidence, identifying types of physical evidence, organic and inorganic analysis of evidence, trace evidence, serology, DNA, fingerprints, <br>  media outlets such as film and print, and explore how forensics seience plays a role in our world. <br> FORENSIC SCIENCE (Lab) College Prep <br> Prerequisite: Grade 12 and Teacher Recommendation <br> Forensic science is a senior-level course rich in exploration and lab investigation which applies many disciplines of scientific study such as biology/anatomy, chemistry, and physics to solving crimes. The course examines the application of science to those criminal and civil laws that are enforced by police agencies in a criminal justice system. Major topics include processing a crime scene, collecting and preserving evidence, identifying types of physical evidence, organic and inorganic analysis of evidence, trace evidence, serology, DNA, fingerprints, anthropology, and document analysis. At the College Prep level, students explore each topic through guided lab experiences and structured and scaffolded research investigations. |  |
| 54 | Modify Project Physics to Honors level | Initially designed to be an honors level course. Unleveled courses currently have low enrollment; students have shared a reluctance to sign up for unleveled electives. The honors level is more attractive to colleges and universities in transcripts, thereby benefiting our students in the application process. |
|  | PROJECT PHYSICS: THE WAY THINGS WORK (Lab)Unleveled Honors Course \#3110 |  |
| SOCIAL STUDIES |  |  |
| Page(s) | Proposed Change | Rationale |
| 60 | Modify Gender Studies to Honors \& High Honors levels | Initially designed to be honors \& high honors level courses. Unleveled courses currently have low enrollment; students have shared a reluctance to sign up for unleveled electives. The honors level is more attractive to colleges and universities in transcripts, thereby |


|  |  | benefiting our students in the application process. |
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|  | GENDER STUDIES <br> 1544/1545 <br> This course examines gender in societies around the the study of the historical and contemporary roles women and men in different societies, and gender will address the nature vs. nurture debate, biological This course emphasizes contemporary gender issues history using gender as a lens to analyze these issues independent reading outside of class, including su discussion, reflection, and analysis of many of the films, and other types of media. The course addresse be capable of analyzing and evaluating additional in should be prepared for differentiated assessments on | nleveled Honors/High Honors <br> Course \#1450 <br> world, both past and present. Students will do this through f women in relation to men, the cultural expectations of it relates to social class, diversity, and identity. The class foundations of gender, and masculinity in America today. and students will evaluate events in American and world Students are expected to complete asignifieant amount of plementary articles and books. The class is grounded in explored in course readings, es challenging and sensitive issues throughout the year. <br> Students enrolled in High Honors should dependent readings, should write at a college level, and ests, quizzes, and projects. |
| 60 | Introduce International Relations course | New course proposed based on student interest and teacher expertise |
|  | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS <br> The study of international politics and current issues facing world powers by first analyzing the history, origins, and evolution of the modern international system through a variety of theoretical and conceptual approaches and frameworks. These frameworks will be used to explore the global economy, international governance mechanisms, national foreign policies, security and conflict, and global problems. Students enrolled in High Honors should be capable of analyzing and evaluating additional independent readings, should write at a college level, and should be prepared for differentiated assessments on tests, quizzes, and projects. |  |
| 61 | Modify Real World Social Studies to Honors level | Initially designed to be an honors level course. Unleveled courses currently have low enrollment; students have shared a reluctance to sign up for unleveled electives. The honors level is more attractive to colleges and universities in transcripts, thereby benefiting our students in the application process. |
|  | REAL WORLD SOCIAL STUDIES UnleveledHonors Course \#13101314 |  |
| 61 | Modify course description and add Advanced Placement course level | New description reflects both the potential for students to enroll in the course at the AP level and the curriculum covered. |
|  | $\begin{array}{lll}\text { U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS } & \text { Honors } & \text { Course \#1704 } \\ \text { AP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS } & \text { Advanced Placement } & \text { Course \#1705 }\end{array}$ <br> Upon completion of this course, students will have achieved a thorough understanding of the purpose, process, and role of the American system of government. Studies willemphasize the ideas and government framework established by the U.S. Constitution as well as the political process within a representative democracy. Lessons will-challenge-and encourage-students to become-informed and active participants in society by developing an awareness of their rights and responsibilities as Ameriean eitizens and to exereise these rights and responsibilities in local, state, and national government. Topics of study include the history-of Ameriean political |  |

thought, the purpose and role of the executive, legistative, and judicial branches, as well as local, state, and national governments, political parties, interest groups, campaigns, and elections. foundations of American democracy, interactions among branches of government, civil liberties and civil rights, American political ideologies and beliefs, and political participation. Lessons challenge and encourage students to become informed and active participants in society by developing an awareness of their rights and responsibilities as American citizens and to exercise these rights and responsibilities at the local, state, and national levels. Content will be presented through analysis of written arguments, discussion of current issues and events, first-hand experiences, case studies, research, critical thinking, and decision making activities. Students will demonstrate their mastery of content through a variety of written and performance-based products. Students enrolled in the Advanced Placement level should be capable of analyzing and evaluating additional independent readings, should write at a college level, and should be prepared for differentiated assessments on tests, quizzes, and projects. This course is eligible for dual enrollment; see the Counseling section for additional information.

