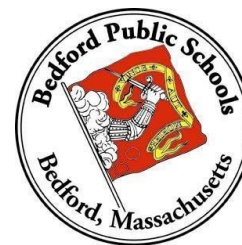


BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



To: Members of the Bedford School Committee
From: Cliff Chuang, Superintendent
Heather Galante, BHS Principal
Date: January 19, 2024
Subject: 2024-25 Bedford High School Program of Studies - 1st Read & Vote

At your January 23, 2024, meeting, you will hear a presentation from representatives from the Bedford High School team on the proposed 2024-25 Program of Studies. In response to feedback, the biggest change proposed by the BHS team is to bring this process forward much earlier in the year. This accelerated timeline offers several advantages:

- Allows for the student course selection process to be completed prior to the end of the current school year which means that “Arena Day,” as it currently exists, will no longer be necessary.
- Facilitates better and more informed course selection conversations between students, parents/caregivers, teachers, and counselors.
- Reduces the amount of scheduling changes that would be necessary at the start of the school year.
- Provides more staff bandwidth to support course selection for new students arriving over the summer and at the start of the school year, including those newly arriving to Hanscom Air Force Base.

The attached *2024-25 BHS Program of Studies Proposed Changes Executive Summary* highlights other proposed changes, including:

- Further strengthen student agency on course selection by removing barriers to the level change request process.
- Introduce a mentoring program within the Academic Achievement Center to facilitate leadership opportunities for upperclassmen and continue to improve upon collaboration within the school community.
- Remove courses which are outdated or for which there is little student demand.
- Fine-tune course descriptions to more accurately reflect curriculum content.
- Introduce new percussion specialty elective and international relations courses to provide opportunities for specialized study based on student interest and teacher expertise.
- Provide level choices within some electives in science and social studies to increase student participation and ensure that our students remain competitive to colleges and universities in transcripts.

At your January 23rd meeting, members of the high school team will be available to present additional context and answer questions. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Recommended Motion: The School Committee approves the proposed 2024-25 BHS Program of Students as presented.

Reference Documents:

- [2024-25 BHS Program of Studies - Proposed Changes Executive Summary](#)
- [2024-25 BHS Program of Studies - Full Document](#)