BELTON HIGH SCHOOL
Committed to Excellence

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Committed to Excellence

School Profile
Belton is located on the I-35 corridor between Waco and Austin, Texas. Home of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, a small Baptist University, Belton borders Temple, site of the nationally known Scott & White Hospital, the teaching hospital of Texas A & M College of Medicine. West of Belton is Fort Hood, one of the largest military installations in the world. Surrounded by two beautiful lakes, Belton is a progressive mid-sized community with a population of approximately 18,000.

Message to Students
The BISD School Board, administrators, counselors, and teachers realize that planning your future can be a complicated process. This catalog is designed to help you develop your personalized education plan within the framework that the state of Texas has set for all students. We hope to make it a pleasant and rewarding journey for you and your parents.

Scheduling
Belton High School operates on a traditional 7-period schedule. Each semester is divided into two 9-week marking periods. Progress reports are provided every 3 weeks, with report cards handed out at 9-week intervals.

Course Selection and Changes
Parents are encouraged to actively participate in the course selection process. The master schedule and personnel hiring are driven by the courses that students select. The school reserves the right to cancel any course if there is insufficient enrollment to “make” the course or if certified staff is not available to teach the course.

Once next year’s courses are selected by students and their parents during spring registration, each student’s schedule will be built accordingly. **Unless errors impacting graduation plans are determined to exist, schedules will not be changed.** If a requested course is unable to be scheduled, students’ alternate requests will be honored. **Students who do not verify their course requests are by default acknowledging acceptance of submitted course requests.**

Schedule changes from Pre-AP and AP courses will be allowed for students until the 8th day of class for the 1st semester. After the 8th day, students must wait until the end of the 4th week to drop a Pre-AP or AP course. No Pre-AP or AP incentive points will transfer to the new course. Students will have one more opportunity to drop after the completion of 1st semester and before the 10th day of class for the 2nd semester.
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

for students entering 9th grade in 2013-2014 or before

Graduation Plan Requirements

Students will be required to enroll under the Recommended or Distinguished graduation plans. Students requesting a change to the Minimum graduation plan must receive approval from their principal and counselor (see page 9). Both the Recommended and Distinguished graduation plans require 26 credits to graduate. The Distinguished plan requires the addition of 4 Advanced Measures (see page 9) and an additional year of foreign language. Students entering 12th grade who are interested in graduating under the new HB5 graduation plan should contact their counselor for more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT AREAS</th>
<th>MINIMUM</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED</th>
<th>DISTINGUISHED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>4 credits to include English I, II, III &amp; IV</td>
<td>4 credits to include English I, II, III &amp; IV</td>
<td>4 credits to include English I, II, III &amp; IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATHEMATICS</td>
<td>3 credits taken consecutively to include Algebra I and Geometry Students must take a math course each of their 9th, 10th, and 11th grade years.</td>
<td>4 credits taken consecutively to include Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II and a 4th math credit from the TEA approved list, which must be taken after the other 3 credits (Exception: If Math Models is taken, it must be before Alg. II)</td>
<td>4 credits taken consecutively to include Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and a 4th math credit from the TEA approved list for which Algebra II is a prerequisite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>3 credits taken consecutively at the high school level (grades 9-12) to include Biology Integrated Physics &amp; Chemistry (IPC) Students may substitute Chemistry and Physics for IPC.</td>
<td>4 credits to include Biology Chemistry Physics 4th science may be IPC if taken prior to Chemistry and Physics or another science from TEA approved list.</td>
<td>4 credits to include Biology Chemistry Physics 4th science may be IPC if taken prior to Chemistry and Physics or may be another science from TEA approved list.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL STUDIES</td>
<td>3.5 credits to include World Geography, World History, US History, and Government (.5)</td>
<td>3.5 credits to include World Geography, World History, US History, and Government (.5)</td>
<td>3.5 credits to include World Geography, World History, US History, and Government (.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECONOMICS</td>
<td>.5 credit</td>
<td>.5 credit</td>
<td>.5 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>2 credits from the same foreign language</td>
<td>3 credits from the same foreign language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE/ATHLETICS</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINE ARTS</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPEECH</td>
<td>.5 credit</td>
<td>.5 credit</td>
<td>.5 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUBTOTAL BEFORE ELECTIVES</td>
<td>16.5 credits</td>
<td>20.5 credits</td>
<td>21.5 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELECTIVES</td>
<td>From any combination of state approved academic and/or career electives.</td>
<td>5.5 credits</td>
<td>4.5 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CREDITS</td>
<td>22 CREDITS</td>
<td>26 CREDITS</td>
<td>26 CREDITS plus 4 Advanced Measures (see page 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOC REQUIREMENTS</td>
<td>Receive a satisfactory score on the following EOC STAAR assessments: English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History</td>
<td>Receive a satisfactory score on the following EOC STAAR assessments: English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History</td>
<td>Receive a satisfactory score on the following EOC STAAR assessments: English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is the student’s responsibility to be sure that all requirements are met prior to graduation.
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Course Classifications

Courses are divided into the following classifications:

- **Special Education**—Students must meet Special Education criteria and be placed by an Admission Review & Dismissal Committee (ARD Committee).
- **Academic**—Academic courses provide students with the opportunity to take subjects that will advance learning in basic subject areas. These courses provide on-grade level instruction in all Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills as outlined in the state board approved well-rounded curriculum.
- **Dual Credit**—Dual credit courses provide students the opportunity to earn college credit through concurrent enrollment at a local college or university. Dual credit options include Temple College, Texas Bioscience Institute and UMHB.
- **Pre-Advanced Placement**—According to the College Board Advanced Placement Program, Pre-AP curriculum is one that is different in pace, depth, breadth, and/or complexity. All students are taught in accordance with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.
- **Advanced Placement**—AP courses allow students the opportunity to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. AP courses prepare students for College Board Advanced Placement Tests. See additional information on the Advanced Placement Program on page 14.
- **Local Credit**—This is a course in which a student participates but may not receive state credit towards graduation (P.E. after 4.0 credits, Athletics after 4.0 credits, all Aide classes, Cheerleading after 1.0 credit).

Class Rank and Grade Point Average (GPA)

The grade point average (GPA) is the average of grades in specific core subjects (English, mathematics, science, social studies and foreign languages). The grade point average (GPA) is used to create a class ranking. Course classifications considered for grade point averages and class ranking purposes are on level, pre-advanced placement and advanced placement. (See Core Subject chart below.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECTS</th>
<th>ADVANCED PLACEMENT</th>
<th>DUAL CREDIT AND DUAL CREDIT TEXAS BIOSCIENCE INSTITUTE *</th>
<th>PRE-ADVANCED PLACEMENT</th>
<th>ON LEVEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>AP English III</td>
<td>Dual Credit English III</td>
<td>Pre-AP English I</td>
<td>English I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP English IV</td>
<td>Dual Credit English IV</td>
<td>Pre-AP English II</td>
<td>English II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>English III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>English IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>AP Calculus AB</td>
<td>Dual Credit Precalculus</td>
<td>Pre-AP Geometry</td>
<td>Geometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP Calculus BC</td>
<td>Dual Credit Calculus</td>
<td>Pre-AP Algebra II</td>
<td>Math Models with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP Statistics</td>
<td>Dual Credit College Algebra</td>
<td>Pre-AP Precalculus</td>
<td>Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Algebra II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-calculus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Adv. Quantitative Reasoning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>AP Biology</td>
<td>Pre-AP Biology</td>
<td>Pre-AP Chemistry</td>
<td>Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>IPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP Physics I</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP Physics II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP Physics C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP Environmental Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Environmental Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Advanced Plant and Soil Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Advanced Animal Science</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Forensic Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Astronomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL STUDIES</td>
<td>AP World History</td>
<td>Dual Credit Government</td>
<td>Pre-AP World Geography</td>
<td>World Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP US History</td>
<td>Dual Credit U.S. History</td>
<td>Pre-AP World History</td>
<td>World History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP US Government</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>US History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP European History</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP Macroeconomics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP Microeconomics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP Human Geography</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP Psychology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</td>
<td>AP Spanish IV</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-AP Spanish II</td>
<td>Spanish II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP Spanish V</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-AP Spanish III</td>
<td>French II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP French IV</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-AP French II</td>
<td>German II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP German IV</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-AP French III</td>
<td>Spanish III</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Class Rank and Grade Point Average (cont.)

- Grades shall be given for every course every semester. Grade points shall be assigned depending on the course classification and the grade earned. (See Grade Point Average Explanation below.)
- Class rank shall be based on the average of these grade points based on the numerical grade average.
- Class rank computed at the end of the junior year may be used for college application purposes until re-ranking occurs after the 1st semester of the senior year.
- Final class rank shall be determined at the end of the second progress reporting period of the 4th marking period. That rank becomes a permanent record on the Academic Achievement Record (AAR); no re-ranking shall occur after graduation for transcript purposes.
- High school courses taken prior to 9th grade, American Preparatory Institute (API) courses, college courses, correspondence courses, summer school courses, Algebra I, first year foreign language, local credit courses, credit by exam/acceleration, online courses, and distance learning are NOT used when calculating grade point average.
- The student’s selected Graduation Plan (Minimum, Recommended, or Distinguished) has no bearing on the grade point averages that determine class rank and honor graduates. Honor graduate status is determined by GPA only.

Grade Point Average Explanation

Applicable to students who entered 9th grade in 2013-2014 and thereafter

- For Advanced Placement classes, twenty (20) points will be added to the semester grade for GPA calculation purposes.
- For Pre-Advanced Placement classes, ten (10) points will be added to the semester grade for GPA calculation purposes.
- For Dual Credit classes, fifteen (15) points will be added to the semester grade for GPA calculation purposes.
- For on level classes, the actual semester grade will be used for GPA calculations.
- No points will be added to any Pre-Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, or Advanced Placement grade if the semester grade is below 70.
- The extra points for Pre-Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, and Advanced Placement classes will only be added for GPA calculations and will not appear on report cards or transcripts.
**Honor Graduates**

Students whose class rank is within the top 15 percent of the graduating class shall be designated honor graduates. District honor graduates shall include the following:

- Students whose class rank is within the top two percent of the graduating class shall be designated summa cum laude graduates. Summa cum laude (with highest distinction) graduates shall wear a gold medal with a blue ribbon at the graduation ceremony.
- Students whose class rank is within the next three percent of the graduating class shall be designated magna cum laude graduates. Magna cum laude (with great distinction) graduates shall wear a silver medal with a red ribbon at the graduation ceremony.
- Students whose class rank is within the next five percent of the graduating class shall be designated cum laude graduates. Cum laude (with distinction) graduates shall wear a bronze medal with a white ribbon at the graduation ceremony.
- Students whose class rank is within the next five percent of the graduating class shall be designated as graduating with honors. Graduates graduating with honors shall wear a bronze medal with a gold ribbon at the graduation ceremony.
- National Honor Society members wear gold cords and collars.
- Bioscience students may wear earned cords.

**Grading Policies**

**On Level Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minor grades</th>
<th>Major Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minor Grades</th>
<th>Major Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Examples** of minor grades may include, but are not limited to, the following: homework, weekly notebook checks, pop quizzes, warm-ups, worksheets, vocabulary, short essays, presentations, cooperative learning group work, mini-assessments, etc.

**Examples** of major grades may include, but are not limited to, the following: projects, major papers, major tests, presentations, labs, unit tests, unit projects, 9 week tests, notebooks, etc.

**Progress Reports** will be issued every three weeks to every student. On level courses will provide a minimum of 9 minor and 3 major grades in any 9-week grading period. Pre-AP and AP courses will provide a minimum of 6 minor and 3 major grades in a 9-week grading period.

**Make-up-Work** will be allowed for excused absences. One class day for every class day of absence will be allowed for make-up work. The student is responsible for requesting make-up work. Work assigned before the absence is due the day the student returns to school. Teachers may make exceptions to extend this timeframe based on special circumstances.

**Final Grade System**

BHS is on a SEMESTER GRADE SYSTEM. The final grade for the year is the average of the two (2) semester grades. A student must have a grade average of 70 for the year to pass and receive one full credit. One-half credit may be awarded on a semester basis.

**Grading**

The following grading scale is used:

- A = 90 - 100
- B = 80 - 89
- C = 75 - 79
- D = 70 - 74
- F = Below 70 (Failing)

The number grade for semester average will be used to compute GPA, with additional points added to the semester grade for Pre-AP, Dual Credit, and AP grades.

A student will be classified as follows for the 2016-2017 school year:

**Student Classifications**

- 10th grade - 6 credits
- 11th grade - 10 credits (must also be enrolled in English III)
- 12th grade - 16 credits (must also be enrolled in 4th English credit)
GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Load

- 9th, 10th, & 11th grade students are required to take 7 classes each semester.
- Generally, Seniors are required to take a minimum of 6 classes each semester.
- Students in a co-op class are required to take a minimum of 4 classes each semester.
- Students with “off campus” period designations are required to be off campus during those periods.
- Students who wish to gain position or try out for membership in any extracurricular squad must be currently enrolled in Belton ISD.

December Graduation

December graduation applications may be obtained through the counselor’s office and must be completed and returned by September 2nd. Early graduates may participate in the graduation ceremony in June but will not be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors. Early graduates’ GPA’s and class ranks will be determined in the same manner as other graduating seniors. All early graduates must have passed all EOC tests prior to receiving the early graduation application.

Gifted and Talented Program

Gifted and Talented students can progress beyond the regular school curriculum. Students at the high school level are provided services through designated pre-advanced placement and advanced placement courses. Courses are offered in five academic areas: math, science, social studies, language arts, foreign language, and two elective areas in art and music.

Student Identification Process

Students may be nominated for the gifted and talented program at any time by teachers, counselors, parents or other interested persons. Criteria to identify gifted and talented students shall be established in the board-approved program for the gifted and talented. Written parental consent shall be obtained before any special testing or individual assessment is conducted as part of the screen and identification process. A selection committee shall evaluate each nominated student according to the established criteria and shall select those students for whom gifted program placement is the more appropriate educational setting.

Assessment tools may include, but are not limited to, the following: achievement and ability tests, behavioral checklist completed by teachers and parents, teacher nominations based on classroom observations, student/parent conferences, student work products (if available) and an interview.

Parents and students shall be notified in writing upon selection of the student for the gifted and talented program. Participation in the program or services provided for gifted students is voluntary. The district shall obtain written permission of the student and parent before a student is placed in the gifted and talented program.
**Extracurricular Activities**

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, and strict academic standards for participation exist across the state; Belton ISD, in compliance with state law and the UIL, reinforces this with the "No Pass - No Play" rule. In order to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities following the initial six-week period of the school year, a student must not have a recorded grade average lower than a 70.

**Waiver of suspension**

However, this suspension may be waived by a principal if the class failed is identified as an advanced academic course or another course approved by the board.

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**Graduation Plans**

The State of Texas requires twenty-two (22) credits for graduation under the minimum plan but twenty-six (26) credits under the recommended and distinguished plans. See credit requirements under each plan on page 4 of this course description catalog.

Students will be required to enroll in the Recommended or Distinguished Program. Students requesting a change to the Minimum graduation plan must receive approval from their principal and counselor. In order to be eligible to opt into the Minimum graduation plan, a student must

- be at least 16 years old or
- have completed two credits required for graduation in each core subject area or
- have failed to be promoted to 10th grade one or more times.

Students requesting to change to the Minimum graduation plan must receive approval from the principal, counselor, and their parent/guardian.

**Distinguished Graduation Plan**

The Distinguished Achievement Program recognizes students who demonstrate levels of performance equivalent to college students or work done by professionals in the arts, sciences, business, industry or community service. In addition to the required credits for both core courses and electives, the student must complete four (4) advanced measures in any combination of those listed below. These advanced measures focus on demonstrated student performance at the college or professional level.

**Advanced Measures**

- One advanced measure may be a score on the PSAT that qualifies a student for recognition as a Commended Scholar or higher or by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as part of the National Hispanic Scholarship Program of the College Board or as part of the National Achievement Scholarship, a program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.
- Multiple advanced measures can be obtained with a score of 3 or higher on additional College Board Advanced Placement examinations.
- Multiple advanced measures can be obtained with a grade of 3.0 or higher on approved courses that count for college credit, including tech prep programs. These courses must be taken in the junior or senior year and a grade of 80 or above must be earned.
- An advanced measure can be obtained by a student successfully completing original research or an original project which is judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the project or conducted under the direction of a mentor and reported to an appropriate audience.

Example #1: Four (4) college courses with a grade of 3.0 or higher
Example #2: Three (3) college courses with a grade of 3.0 or higher and one (1) AP exam with a score of 3 or higher
Example #3: National Merit Commended Scholar, one (1) AP exam with a score of 3 or higher and two (2) college courses with a grade of 3.0 or higher
**Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

No high school senior shall be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors who has not taken as many as four (4) academic courses each year of high school. Students must have been a registered full-time student at BHS during the last four (4) semesters to be eligible. To be considered registered for a full semester, a student must enroll no later than the close of school on the tenth (10th) day of the beginning of the first semester.

Final ranks, honor graduate designations, and valedictorian and salutatorian designations will be determined at the end of the second progress reporting period of the 4th marking period. That rank becomes a permanent record of the Academic Achievement Record (AAR); no re-ranking will occur after graduation.

The student with the highest accumulated GPA is named the Valedictorian, and the student with the second highest accumulated GPA is named the Salutatorian. Students graduating earlier than they would normally graduate will not be eligible for valedictory or salutatory status.

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**NCAA - National Collegiate Athletic Association**

Many college sports are regulated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), an organization that has established rules on eligibility, recruiting and financial aid. If a student is planning to enroll in college as a freshman and wishes to participate in Division I or Division II sports, he/she must be certified by the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse will analyze academic information and determine if the student meets the NCAA’s initial eligibility requirements. Students wanting to participate in Division I or Division II sports should start the certification process early, usually by the end of their junior year. In order to be certified, students must complete the registration packet, have their transcript and SAT/ACT scores sent to the NCAA, and pay a fee. It is the student’s responsibility to submit the registration packet.

Additional information may be found at [www.eligibility.org](http://www.eligibility.org).
TESTING

BISD provides the opportunity for a student to take various standardized tests needed for the college process and to evaluate a student’s future career planning. Some of these tests require registration and payment of a fee.

PSAT - Sophomores and Juniors

The PSAT is a Pre-SAT. It provides practice for the upcoming SAT exam and gives students a chance to see how their skills compare with those of other students applying to college. For juniors, it is the only way to qualify for National Merit Scholarships.

SAT and/or ACT - Juniors and Seniors

The SAT or ACT is required by most colleges and universities for acceptance and financial aid. Initial testing should occur during the junior year, but each of these tests may be retaken as often as needed.

Belton High School is listed as a national test site for both the SAT and the ACT. Other locations and dates are available throughout Central Texas. See the counselor’s office for a schedule of test dates, or go to www.collegeboard.org to register for the SAT, or www.actstudent.org to register for the ACT. Fee waivers for students in the free or reduced lunch program are available in the counseling office.

CEEB code: 440580

TSI Assessment

Texas Success Initiative

Students attending Texas public institutions of higher education must be in compliance with the Texas Success Initiative (TSI). The law requires all entering college students to be assessed for college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing unless the student qualifies for an exemption. Each student who fails to meet the minimum passing standard of the TSI assessment must be advised regarding developmental education necessary to ensure readiness to perform college level academic course work and will be placed in a developmental program designed to help the student reach that goal.

TSI Assessment Exemptions

However, students may be exempt from the TSI Assessment if they have one of the following:

- an ACT composite score of 23 or higher, with English and math individual scores greater than or equal to 19, or
- an SAT combined score of 1070, with critical reading and math individual scores greater than or equal to 500

STAAR End of Course Assessments

Beginning with the freshman class entering high school in the 2011-2012 school year, all TAKS tests will be replaced with five end-of-course assessments in English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History. Students who do not achieve satisfactory on the STARR EOC assessments are given additional opportunities to test during the summer and in December.
Students in AP courses should take the corresponding AP exam. The examinations for all BHS AP courses are coordinated by and administered at BHS on designated national test dates during May of each year. These exams contain both multiple choice questions and free-response items that require essays, problem solving, and other skills.

The cost of these exams is the students’ responsibility. Fee reductions may be applied to the total cost for students in the free or reduced lunch program. In addition, students may also be required to purchase an AP study guide. All information and registration dates are available through the counselors’ office.

**Students with Disabilities Testing**

Students with a disability may be eligible for accommodations on various tests. This service is provided by The College Board Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) or through ACT’s Request for ACT Special Testing. BHS has all the information needed for a student to apply. If students feel that they qualify, they should see the BHS SSD Coordinator. A student’s qualification will cover all College Board testing programs for as long as the student remains with BHS, unless the school indicates that the accommodations have changed. ACT testing is done on a test-by-test basis.

**Eligibility**

To be eligible, the student must

- have a disability that necessitates testing accommodations,
- have documentation on file at BHS that supports the need to request accommodations and meets the Guidelines for Documentation,
- receive the requested accommodations, due to the disability, for school-based tests for four school months.
- all decisions regarding accommodations are made by college board or ACT.

**Tests available**

If students are eligible, they will qualify for accommodations on the following tests: *PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, SAT Program (Reasoning Tests and Subject Tests), Advanced Placement Program tests, ACT, and possibly other local tests.

*PSAT/NMSQT eligibility enables the student to receive accommodations for SAT Center testing.

**Accommodations**

Students may request accommodations appropriate to their disability. The preference is to accommodate the student in the same manner used for school-based tests. However, when that is not possible, accommodations can still be provided to meet the need. Accommodations may include extended time for testing, photo-enlarged test, larger print, Braille, audio cassette, reader, writer, and/or computer for writing. However, these accommodations may not be available for every test. The student must contact the SSD Coordinator in advance to arrange for the needed assistance. Students who currently use accommodations in school, or have an IEP or 504 Plan are not automatically qualified for college board testing accommodations.
**Top Ten Percent**

According to the Texas Education Code (House Bill 588), students are admitted to any Texas state public college or university if they graduate in the top 10% of their class.* This applies to university admission but may not apply to the school of their preference according to their major. Students must apply no later than two years after they graduate from a Texas high school, and they must complete the application process before the deadline date established by their college of choice.

*Exception: SB 175, passed by the 81st Legislature, modifies the top 10 percent admissions program for The University of Texas at Austin. Under the new law the University is to automatically admit enough students to fill 75% of available spaces set aside for Texas residents in an entering freshman class.

Using data from recent years, the University has determined that automatically admitting students in the top 7% of their high school class to the 2017 entering freshman class will fill 75% of available spaces for Texas applicants. As a result, UT Austin will automatically admit all eligible 2017 summer/fall freshman applicants who rank within the top 7% of their high school class, with remaining spaces to be filled through holistic review.

**Transfer Students**

In order for students to be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian status, they must have been a registered full-time student at BHS during the last four semesters prior to graduation. A student is considered registered for a full semester if he or she enrolls no later than the close of school on the tenth (10th) day of the start of the semester.

**Websites**

The following is a partial listing of websites that students may find valuable during high school. BISD does not recommend or endorse any websites. They are provided as an informational tool only.

- www.applytexas.org: Texas Common Application
- www.collegeforallexans.com: Grant, Scholarship and early graduation information
- www.collegeboard.org: SAT registration, college and financial aid information
- www.actstudent.org: ACT registration, college and financial aid information
- www.fastweb.com: Scholarship search information
- www.commonapp.org: Common Application
- www.achievetexas.com: Career Information
### Course Selection and Changes

Parents are encouraged to actively participate in the course selection process. The master schedule and personnel hiring are driven by the courses that students select. Pre-AP and AP teacher recommendation are based on EOC scores and performance in class. Once next year’s courses are selected by students and their parents during spring pre-registration, each student’s schedule will be built accordingly. Unless errors impacting graduation plans are determined to exist, schedules will not be changed. If a requested course is unable to be scheduled, every effort will be made to honor students’ alternate requests.

### Advanced Placement Program

The Advanced Placement (AP) program sponsored by the College Board enables students to complete college-level courses while they are in high school. Courses that are designated AP follow specific curricula approved by the College Board and differ from the on level courses in those same subjects. An AP course is like a first-year college course because of the subject matter studied and because each student is expected to assume the responsibility to complete assignments in a manner requested by the instructor. Upon successful completion of the AP level course, the student receives high school credit and the appropriate higher level grade-point according to the grading scale.

Students scoring a 50 or better in a subject area on the PSAT are strongly encouraged to take Pre-AP and AP courses in the subject area that students scored 50 or better.

When the student takes the AP exam and scores in an acceptable range, advanced college placement and/or college credit or both may be awarded upon college entrance.* The purpose of an AP course is to prepare the student to take the exam; therefore, each student enrolled in an AP course at BHS is encouraged to take the AP exam.

*Credit and score requirements are at the university's discretion.

### AP Exam

The examinations for all AP courses are given at BHS on designated national test dates during May of each year. The cost of these exams is the student’s responsibility. Fee reductions may be applied to the total cost for students on free and reduced lunch. In addition, students may also be required to purchase an AP study guide. All information and registration dates are available through the counselors’ office.

Advanced Placement students are exceptional candidates for admission to the most selective colleges and universities. Advanced Placement offerings at BHS provide the student the opportunity to earn college credit at a minimal cost before high school graduation.

NOTE: Students should review their college selection’s policy regarding the awarding of credit, placement and grades on the basis of AP exam scores. Students can check their college’s course listing and use the Texas Common Numbering System to make sure these courses are accepted by the college they wish to attend.

### Dual Credit

Dual Credit is an early admission program for high school juniors and seniors that allows students to earn college credit through identified high school courses.

To enroll in a dual credit course, students must:
- complete their sophomore year of high school,
- meet the enrollment criteria and prerequisites to college class,
- visit the counselor and obtain the necessary forms and approvals,
- submit the following documents to the dual credit institution:
  - an application to the Dual Credit Program
  - General Admissions Application for the dual credit institution
  - Residency Form
  - current official high school transcript
  - testing scores
- enroll and be accepted by the dual credit institution and pay all applicable admission, tuition and course fees including books and supplies,
- meet minimum testing requirements of the institution offering the dual credit course
Dual Credit (cont.)

Dual credit courses (Temple College, Texas Bioscience Institute, and University of Mary Hardin Baylor) will receive an additional 10 points (15 points for Class of 2017 and beyond) added to the final grade for GPA and class ranking purposes only. The actual grade earned will appear on the transcript. No points will be awarded if the grade earned is below a 70.

For more information about the dual credit program at Belton High School, contact Beverly Stephens at 215-2215 or beverly.stephens@bisd.net.

Temple College Dual Credit
www.templejc.edu

Entrance Requirements:
- complete sophomore year in high school
- complete an application for admission to Temple College
- request transcript and test card to be sent to Temple College
- obtain minimum scores on the TSI Assessment as follows: Math—350, Reading—351, Writing—Essay score of 5 or Essay score of 4 and multiple choice score of 363; or be exempt from TSI Assessment based on SAT scores (1070 composite with at least a 500 Verbal and a 500 Math) or ACT scores (23 Composite with a minimum of 19 in English and 19 in Math)
- pay all applicable admission fees, tuition, course fees, and books

Course Offerings:*
ENGL 1301—Composition I
ENGL 1302—Composition II
ENGL 2322—British Lit I
ENGL 2323—British Lit II
HIST 1301—US History I—for juniors only
HIST 1302—US History II—for juniors only
GOVT 2305—Federal Government—for seniors only
ECO 2301—Principles of Macroeconomics—for seniors only
MATH 1314—College Algebra—for seniors only
MATH 2212—Pre-Calculus—for seniors only

*Pre-requisites may apply. Courses must have a minimum of 15 students registered to be offered.

Texas Bioscience Institute Dual Credit
www.texasbioscienceinstitute.com

The Texas Bioscience Institute is a dual credit program through Temple College established to prepare students for higher education and careers in today’s biotechnology, research, and medical fields. The rigorous curriculum concentrates on math, science, and technology. The Texas Bioscience Institute is a program in which students will receive college credit while completing the last two years of high school.

Requirements for Entrance
- Must be an 11th or 12th grader on the Recommended or Distinguished Graduation Plan
- Must have completed Algebra II, biology, and chemistry with a grade of 80 or higher
- Must meet TSI Assessment scores of: Math—350, Reading—351, Writing—Essay score of 5 or Essay score of 4 and multiple choice score of 363, or be exempt by meeting the following testing requirements: SAT composite scores of 1070 with a 500 verbal and 500 math; or ACT composite score of 23 with a minimum score of 19 in English and 19 in math.
- Three teacher evaluations; one must be from a math teacher, the second from a science teacher, and other may be from a general studies
- Submit a general admission application, a dual credit/early admission form, a residency form, and current official transcript.
University of Mary Hardin Baylor Dual Credit

Entrance Requirements

UMHB Dual Credit students must
• have satisfied BISD high school sophomore year requirement
• rank in the top 1/2 of their high school graduating class and score a minimum SAT of 950 or minimum ACT of 20 OR rank in the lower 1/2 of their high school graduating class and score a minimum SAT of 990 or minimum ACT of 21 OR rank in the top 10% of their high school graduating class from an accredited high school with no minimum SAT or ACT score.
• Sophomores only may use their 10th grade PSAT scores to meet testing requirements for the dual credit English class—required scores are a minimum of 50 on the Critical Reading and a minimum of 50 on the Writing
• have approval from BISD to enroll in dual credit courses
• complete all documentation for admission prior to registering for courses at UMHB

Applicants must submit
• an Application for Admission to UMHB as a dual credit student—application will be waived for dual credit students
• an official ACT or SAT score report - may be submitted on an official transcript from BISD
• a signed Advising Form from BISD to enroll in dual credit courses

Scholarship:
For every dual credit course a student enrolls in at UMHB, the student will receive a $250 scholarship upon their full-time enrollment at UMHB.
To verify if credits will transfer to a particular college, access the Texas Common Numbering System website at www.tccns.org.

The Texas Common Course Numbering System is a voluntary, co-operative effort among Texas community colleges and universities to facilitate transfer of freshman- and sophomore-level general academic coursework.

The TCCNS System provides a shared, uniform set of course designations for students and their advisors to use in determining both course equivalency and degree applicability of transfer credit on a statewide basis. When students transfer between two participating TCCNS institutions, a course taken at the sending institution transfers as the course carrying, or cross-referenced with, the same TCCNS designation at the receiving institution.

**Correspondence Courses**

Correspondence courses offer an alternate way of earning high school credit. These courses are offered through the University of Texas or Texas Tech University. The course must include the state required essential knowledge and skills, and the correspondence grade must be received by December prior to June graduation if that course is to count toward high school graduation. However, grades earned in correspondence courses are not used in computing grade point average (GPA) or class rank. Students are responsible for all registration fees and materials. Registration books are available in the counselors’ office.

Web site for Texas Tech: www.dept.ttu.edu/uc/k-12/  
Web site for UT Austin: www.utexas.edu/cee/k12.shtml
Credit by Articulation

Students planning to attend a community college or technical college can obtain college credit by taking certain high school courses. **Credit by Articulation** allows students to earn college credit for courses that cover the same material learned in high school. Career and technical courses may count toward a certificate or an Associate Degree at Temple College. Some courses may earn students articulated credit statewide. In order to receive college credit through articulation, a student must

- complete a planned series of high school courses at the required grade level and receive the minimum high school grade each college requires (Some colleges require a high school grade of 80 or 85.),
- successfully complete one semester of coursework at the college (grade of C or above),
- meet other requirements as specified by the college, such as passing a college test in that subject, and
- present a high school transcript to the college and fill out a Credit by Articulation form at the college.

Once the previously mentioned criteria are met, credit received for high school course(s) will appear on the college transcript. See a career and technical facilitator for specific details.

Credit by Exam and Credit by Acceleration

Credit by Exam

Students may register for Credit by Exam (CBE) or Credit by Acceleration (CBA) through the University of Texas (www.utexas.edu/cee/k12.shtml) or Texas Tech University (www.dept.ttu.edu/uc/k-12/). Scores on CBE and CBA exams may not be used to gain eligibility for extra-curricular activities or in computing grade point average (GPA) or class rank.

A student may attempt **Credit by Exam (CBE)** who has had sufficient prior formal instruction as determined by the school on the basis of a review of the student’s educational records.

Students enrolled at BHS must

- have an average grade of 50 in each subject area in which CBE is being attempted,
- pass the state approved exam as defined in BISD policy with a grade of 70 to earn course credit, and
- not request re-examination on the denied course in the same school-year cycle in which the credit was denied.

Students in a non-public school education setting must

- submit the course curriculum for which prior seat time is being claimed. A curriculum review committee will review the submitted materials to determine if they match the course curriculum as aligned with TEKS and EOC.
- take the state-approved exam for the course(s) for which credit is sought and pass with a grade of 70. If this grade is not attained, credit for the course is denied. The student may not request re-examination on the denied course in the same school-year cycle in which the credit was denied.

Pending the state-certified exam results, probationary placement will be decided by the campus administrator.

Credit by Acceleration

**Credit by Acceleration (CBA)** allows students to accelerate and earn credit for a particular course without formal instruction. The district will offer CBA for all academic courses. The exams will be offered at least three days during each of these four testing windows: January 1 to March 31, April 1 to June 30, July 1 to September 30, and October 1 to December 31. Students who score 80% mastery (or greater) on each examination will be given credit for the course tested. Grades earned through credit by acceleration are not used when computing a student’s Grade Point Average or class rank.
Physical Education is designed to promote self-confidence, social skills and safety awareness in students by developing knowledge of lifetime fitness through various activities and skills.

Belton ISD’s Physical Education program is sequential, progressive and coordinated across grade levels as prescribed by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Students are given the opportunity to express themselves freely and creatively by discovering new and exciting ways to enjoy fitness throughout their lives for a healthier and more productive role in society. Physical education teachers act as role models to guide students to a better understanding of a physically fit body and the rewards gained through a lifetime of healthy living.

The district has developed the following policy allowing students to participate in an off campus commercially-sponsored activity instead of the campus physical education class. This policy reflects Texas Administrative Code 74.11 Subchapter (D) for receiving physical education credit through off-campus commercial programs. The parent must apply to the district for approval, and such approval may be granted under the following conditions:

- Olympic-level participation and/or competition that includes a minimum of 15 hours per week of highly intense, professional, supervised training. The training facility, instructors, and the activities involved in the program must be certified by the superintendent or designee to be of exceptional quality. Students qualifying and participating at this level may be dismissed from school one hour per day. Students dismissed may not miss any class other than physical education.
- Private or commercially sponsored physical activities include those certified by the superintendent or designee to be of high quality and well supervised by appropriately trained instructors. Student participation of at least five hours per week must be required. Students certified to participate at this level may not be dismissed from any part of the regular school day.

Before qualifying, local policy requires that the following information be provided to the superintendent or designee to certify the activity in which the student will participate:

- Type of activity
- Attendance requirements
- Qualification of coach
- Information concerning the health benefits and the rigor of the activity

Students interested in taking online courses must consult their counselor. Both the counselor and the principal must approve the online course request. For more information about the TxVSN, please see www.txvsn.org.

TxVSN - Texas Virtual Network

Senate Bill 1788, passed by the 80th Texas Legislature in 2007, established a state virtual network to provide supplemental, online courses for Texas students. Courses are provided by Texas school districts, open enrollment charter schools, Education Service Centers, and institutions of higher education. All high school courses offered through the TxVSN are aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) as well as the iNACOL National Standards of Quality for Online Courses. All high school courses are led by an instructor who is Texas-certified in the course subject area and grade level and has completed professional development on effective online instruction.

Students may request to take an online course for high school credit, provided the course is part of the student’s normal course load. The course must be necessary and required for high school graduation and not offered at Belton High School. Students may take a maximum of two online courses per semester. Payment for courses taken through TxVSN will be the responsibility of the student. Courses taken through TxVSN will not counts towards GPA.

Students interested in taking online courses must consult their counselor. Both the counselor and the principal must approve the online course request. For more information about the TxVSN, please see www.txvsn.org.
Summer School

BHS may offer both remedial and accelerated summer school for those students who qualify. Dates will be announced near the end of the school year. All class offerings are dependent upon final student counts and pre-registration. Tuition will be charged for accelerated summer school classes.

Remedial Summer School

The remedial summer school program is for students who have unsuccessfully attempted a subject during the regular school year. Student cannot receive credit for remedial summer school unless they have previously attempted the class. Students may complete one semester of the entire year of a course which they did not successfully complete during the preceding school year.

Accelerated Summer School

Accelerated summer school is for BHS students who wish to take selected classes during the summer term to provide more opportunities in their schedules during the regular school year. Course listings of the course offerings will be available through the Counseling Center near the end of the school year. Students will be asked to pay tuition and registration fees and any applicable lab or supply fees.

Alternate Ways to Earn Credit or Waivers

Physical Education Credit: Students can also obtain physical education credit though correspondence courses in physical education from the University of Texas at Austin or Texas Tech University (see page 17 for information on Correspondence Courses).

In addition to the regular course work, credit by exam/acceleration, correspondence courses, and summer school, students may earn high school credit in other non-traditional ways. Approval for these types of credit must be obtained before a class is started.

- Applied music: credit for taking private music lessons outside of school. Student must first register through the counselor.
- Physical Education Credit: one credit required for all graduation plans. Students may be allowed to substitute the following courses for the required credit:
  - Marching Band (PE waiver will be given for Fall semester only)
  - Drill Team (PE waiver for first year)
  - Cheerleading (PE credit for first year, all other credits will be local credits)
  - Athletics offered during the school day (PE credit for first year), may receive up to 4 state PE credits
  - JROTC (PE waiver for first year)
  - Colorguard (PE waiver will be given for Fall semester only)
This catalog is a guide based on information as it is known at the time of publication. Occasionally, changes occur due to action by the Texas Legislature and/or Texas State Board of Education. In addition, there could be changes that affect course offerings, grade point distribution, graduation requirements and students’ class schedules after this catalog is printed. Courses listed in this catalog may not be available because of limited enrollment.

It is the policy of the Belton Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex or handicap in its programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The BISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator or the Section 504 Coordinator at 400 North Wall, Belton, Texas 76513 at 254-215-2000.