

Bridgeport International Academy

CURRICULUM GUIDE AND COURSE CATALOG

2025 - 2026



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The following is a brief synopsis of BIA’s academic program, graduation requirements, and core curriculum. The comprehensive discussion of these and other academic topics can be found in the *Student/Parent Handbook*. This summary is followed by a description of BIA’s course offerings.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The BIA academic year consists of two semesters, with the first semester during the fall, and the second semester during the spring. Each of the semesters is split in half, yielding four quarters, with report cards issued quarterly.

Academic Evaluation Policy

Academic grades are awarded based on a 4-point scale and reflect demonstrated mastery of the subject matter. During each school year, teachers maintain a record of a student’s significant achievements to effectively evaluate each student’s progress and development.

Letter Grades	Percentage Equivalents	Grade Points	Grading Scale
A	93 to 100	4.0	Outstanding
A-	90 to 92	3.7	Excellent
B+	87 to 89	3.3	Very good
B	83 to 86	3.0	Good
B-	80 to 82	2.7	Satisfactory
C+	77 to 79	2.3	Average +
C	73 to 76	2.0	Average
C-	70 to 72	1.7	Average -
D+	67 to 69	1.3	*
D	63 to 66	1.0	*
D-	60 to 62	.7	*
F	Below 60	0.0	No credit awarded

Drop/Add Period

The drop/add period is the first ten days of each semester for year-long or semester-long courses and the first ten days of the quarter for quarter-long courses. Schedule changes will be considered and approved by the administration only for sound educational reasons.

College Courses

As a college preparatory school, BIA makes easily available, and at greatly reduced cost, the opportunity for its students to take college courses. In particular, many students take advantage of enrolling in courses at the nearby University of Bridgeport (UB) campus and the proximate CT State Community College Housatonic (HCC). The completion of college courses is a great way to improve one’s high school transcript and build one’s college transcript. For each semester-long college course taken, the student earns one high school credit, as well as the college credit; however, the student must achieve a final grade of C- or better in the college course for the credit to transfer to BIA.

To take college courses, the student must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and receive parental and administrative permission. Qualifying juniors and seniors at BIA may take up to two UB college courses per semester and two HCC courses, as long as the times do not conflict with the student’s

BIA schedule. Students and families are responsible to cover the course cost and additional fees (books, lab fees, etc.) related to a college course.

Barring extenuating circumstances, college courses are to supplement the student's education and not replace any BIA course or the core curriculum.

Midyear and Final Examinations

Bridgeport International Academy conducts midyear and final examinations in most subjects. These take place during dedicated examination periods. Midyear examinations are held at the end of the Fall Semester, after the second quarter has concluded. Final examinations are held at the end of the Spring Semester, after the fourth quarter has concluded.

The examination grades are used in calculating the student's final grade for the course. For a year-long course, the midyear examination counts as 10% of the course grade and the final examination likewise counts as 10% of the course grade. For semester-long courses, the final exam for the course, which takes place during either the midyear or final examination period, counts as 20% of the course grade.

Transcripts and Right of Privacy

Grades for academic courses completed will be reflected on an official student transcript. The school maintains cumulative, academic records, which are available to parents or legal guardians when requested. These academic records will be copied and sent to other schools upon written request when the student's tuition and fees are kept current. A student who is 18 years of age or older may receive copies of his/her academic transcript upon written request if tuition and fees are current and no money is owed to the Academy. After a student has completed studies at BIA, there is a fee for the issuing of each transcript. That fee must be paid before an academic transcript or any records will be issued by the school.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

No student shall graduate BIA who has not satisfactorily completed a *minimum of 24 credits*, with the minimum requirements by subject area as follows:

Minimum graduation requirements by category. For a student to graduate, he or she must have completed a minimum of twenty-four credits. This is to include not fewer than (1) eight credits in the humanities, including no fewer than four credits in English, three credits in social studies (including at least one credit in American history and government), and one credit in a humanities elective; (2) eight credits in science, mathematics, and technology, including no fewer than three credits in science, three credits in mathematics, seven total credits in math and science combined, one credit in technology, and one credit in a science, mathematics, or technology elective; (3) two and one-half credits in career and life skills, including at least a half credit in health and safety education, one-half credit in college and careers education*, and per semester-based credits (see below) in physical education and character education; and (4) two credits in world languages**, subject to the requirements below; and (5) additional graduation requirements in community service as described below.

I. Humanities

8.0 credits

English	4.0 credits
Social Studies	3.0 credits (including 1 credit Am. History/Gov.)
Humanities electives	1.0 credit

II. Science, Mathematics and Technology

8.0 credits

Mathematics	3.0 credits
Science	3.0 credits (and 7 total credits in math and science combined)
Technology	1.0 credit
Science, mathematics, and technology elective	1.0 credit

III. Careers and Life Skills

3.0 credits

Health & Safety	0.5 credit
PE and PE Alternatives	0.25 credits/sem
Character Education	0.125 credits/sem
College & Careers & altern.	0.5 credits

*Administration has the right to waive part or all of the half credit in College and Careers for incoming seniors and special cases.

IV. World Languages

2.0 credits

**International students for whom English is not their first language and students, domestic or international, who have completed successfully at least two academic years in middle school and or high school in a non-English speaking country and conducted in a language other than English may have the world language credits waived.

Community Service Requirement

Students are required to fulfill 75 hours of community service during their four-years in high school. For students attending BIA for less than four years, the required hours of community service is 25 per year.

English Competency Requirement for Students from Non-English Speaking Educational Systems

In order to graduate from BIA, international students who come from a non-English speaking educational system must demonstrate English competency. The *Student/Parent Handbook* lists diverse criteria that may be demonstrated to demonstrate competency.

Definition of Credit

One credit (1 credit) is earned by completing a course of study where the class meets for 200 minutes per week for 36 weeks, which equals one full year of study (i.e., two semesters). **One half credit** (0.5 credits) is based on completion of one semester course of study for 200 minutes per week for 18 weeks or 100 minutes per week for 36 weeks. For students who do not complete a full semester, such as late transfers to the school, partial credit may be earned for the time invested in class.

Credit for Physical Education, Character Education, and Other Activities

Students are required to participate in physical education. PE activities take place each semester for two hours a week (.25 credits per semester). In addition, each semester students participate twice a week in

an activity period where they have diverse options, such as fine arts, digital arts, music, drama, mentoring, various sports activities, and so forth. For each student, character education classes are held once a week to foster the development of shared, universal values, such as taking responsibility for one's actions, care and respect for others, honesty and integrity, and caring for the environment.

Transfer Credit

With a grade of C- or higher, credit will be accepted for transfer students from other high school institutions and from recognized home-school and distance-learning programs. In some cases, transfer students have coordinated with the administration to arrange for accredited, online/distance education programs to achieve high school credit in areas in which they need additional credit to meet the Academy's graduation requirements. International transcripts should be translated when submitted.

The Core Curriculum

Grade 9

ENG-101	Elements of Writing
HIS-101	Ancient Civilizations
SCI-101	Earth Science
MA-101	Algebra I or Geometry*
PE-101	Physical Education
CS-101	Computer Science
	Foreign Language Elective

Grade 10

ENG-201	World Literature and Composition
HIS-201	Modern Civilizations
MA-201	Geometry and/or Algebra II*
SCI-201	Biology
HEA-201	Health & Human Biology
PE-201	Physical Education
	Foreign Language Elective

Grade 11

ENG-301	American Literature and Composition
MA-301	Algebra II or Precalculus*
SCI-301	Chemistry
HIS-301	American History and Government
PE-301	Physical Education
CL-301	College & Careers Electives

Grade 12

ENG-401	British Literature & Writing or Pre-College English
MA-401	Precalculus, Calculus, Precollege Math*
SCI-401	Physics
SS-401	Social Sciences Elective (Psychology, Sociology, etc.)
PE-401	Physical Education Electives, Internships, etc.

*Testing and prerequisites will determine the appropriate math placement for each student

Once-a-week character education classes are mandatory. A mandatory one-week Global Studies seminar is offered school-wide for which students earn 0.125 credits. At times, a mandatory pre-Thanksgiving Break “seminar week” is offered school-wide for which students earn 0.1 credits. College courses are available for qualified juniors and seniors to supplement their education.

Courses

English

- **Elements of Writing, 1 credit**

This course encompasses instruction in the various elements of the English language including grammar, writing, reading and vocabulary. Students will employ the writing process and a variety of writing strategies in order to improve their writing skills for both high school and college. While some of the essays will be factual, informative or persuasive, others will allow greater opportunity for the students' creativity to be expressed. Vocabulary development and the reading of novels is also incorporated into this class as a natural augment to writing development and engaging class discussions.

- **World Literature and Composition, 1 credit**

This course uses various global literature to teach universal literature theories. Students are expected to develop mastery in: critical reading, creative writing, presentation skills (including speaking with clarity) and listening. In order to fully engage the students, a diverse methodology is incorporated into the daily lessons: oral interpretation, discussion, group work, poetry appreciation, essays and project work. Novels and short stories that encompass a wide range of world literature from such notable authors as Mitch Albom and Paulo Coelho focus on themes of self-identify, growth through struggle, and cross-cultural challenges as people move around the world and advance through various time periods. Students are encouraged to respond thoughtfully to great works of writing through their own research and writing of essays.

- **American Literature, 1 credit**

This course familiarizes students with a broad selection of American literature from Puritan writings to modern plays. The students will read the renowned works of authors from a variety of styles and genres such as Mark Twain, Ernest Hemingway and John Hershey. Students will also listen to and comment on the speeches of notable American personalities such as Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr. Students will develop an appreciation of noteworthy figures from American history who have shaped America's unique culture and established America's place on the world stage.

Additionally, this class emphasizes reading and writing and presentation skill strategies in order to help students respond thoughtfully and intelligently to various readings of essays, short stories, and novels when appropriate. Group work is engaged as a way to encourage collaboration and build critical thinking skills. SAT/ACT preparation is addressed through a study of in-depth and challenging vocabulary and grammar that is naturally embedded in the language of literature.

- **British Literature and Expository Writing, 1 credit**

This course uses British Literature from the Renaissance to the Modernist Period to help students understand how culture, history and communication all interact to shape society. The course examines the roots of literature in the English language, the works and impact of William Shakespeare, and the works of other British notables such as William Wordsworth, Mary Shelley and Oscar Wilde. Included in this selection are a wide range of short stories, novels, poetry and drama. Students are expected to develop skills in literary analysis, to work

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on maturing their own ‘writing voice,’ and to become critical consumers of the written media. Emphasis will be placed on preparation for writing at the college level.

- **Pre-College English, 1 credit**

The main emphases of this course are the development of college-level writing skills and literary analysis. It is designed for students intending to attend a four-year university. It is a particularly useful course for international students who come from a non-English speaking educational system and have not demonstrated sufficient English competency according to the criteria outlined in the *Student Parent Handbook*. Writing—academic, creative, professional, journalistic—is frequent, with attention given to organization (overall, within and between paragraphs, sentence structure), style, grammar, logical presentation of ideas, and proper referencing. The course also includes significant reading and literary analysis.

Other English courses are available to qualified juniors and seniors through the University of Bridgeport and CT State Community College (Housatonic), including such courses as:

- Composition and Rhetoric
- Advanced Exposition
- Creative Writing
- Poetry Writing
- Major Figures in Literature
- Introduction to Drama
- Contemporary Drama
- Introduction to Fiction
- Science Fiction

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- **Earth Science, 1 credit**

This course covers four main areas of earth science: geology, oceanography, meteorology and astronomy. Topics examined in depth include minerals, rocks, Earth's resources, weathering, glaciers, deserts, earthquakes, plate tectonics, volcanos, mountain building, geologic time, the ocean floor, ocean water and life, ocean circulation and processes, structure of the atmosphere, moisture, clouds and precipitation, air pressure, wind and storms, modern astronomy, and our solar system.

- **Biology with lab, 1 credit**

This course is a thorough sampling of all main areas studied in the field of biology, the study of living organisms. Topics examined in depth include the science of biology, the chemical basis of life, the molecules of life, the cell, respiration, photosynthesis, the cellular basis of inheritance, genetics, DNA and the language of life, evolution, classification schemes, viruses, prokaryotes, protists, fungi, plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates. In order to allow students to make observations, laboratory work is correlated with classroom studies, including multiple vertebrate dissections.

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- **Health and Human Biology, 0.5 credits**

This course focuses on health issues and human biology concurrently. Topics examined in depth include health decision making, stress, mental disorders and suicide, family and peer relationships, food and nutrition, exercise and lifelong fitness, alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse, first aid, reproduction and heredity, pregnancy and childbirth, childhood, adolescence and adulthood, infectious and sexually transmitted diseases, disease prevention, accident prevention, digestive and excretory systems, circulatory and respiratory systems, muscular and skeletal systems, integumentary system, nervous system, and immune system.

- **Chemistry with lab, 1 credit**

This course teaches the fundamental principles of chemistry, including organic and inorganic chemistry. Topics examined in depth include atomic structure, scientific measurement, atomic structure, the nature of electrons, the periodic table, ionic and metallic bonding, covalent bonding, chemical names and formulas, chemical quantities, chemical reactions, states of matter, solutions, thermochemistry, reaction rates and equilibrium, acids and bases, salts, oxidation-reduction reactions, electrochemistry, hydrocarbon compounds, functional groups, and nuclear chemistry. In order to allow students to have practical experience, laboratory work is correlated with classroom studies. Some of the lab activities are done in a University of Bridgeport Chemistry Laboratory.

- **Physics with lab, 1 credit**

This course is an introduction to physics, the study of matter and energy and their various forms and applications. Students will gain an understanding of the physical laws and principles that influence every aspect of our lives; utilize the scientific method and systematic observation as approaches to problem solving; investigate the effects of quantitative theory in developing modern physics concepts; integrate mathematical applications with physical concepts; and gain insights into possible careers related to physics as well as science and engineering in general.

Other science courses are available to qualified juniors and seniors through the University of Bridgeport and CT State Community College (Housatonic), including such courses as:

- General Biology I, II
- Microbiology
- Anatomy and Physiology I, II
- Ecology
- Genetics
- Microbiology
- Cell Biology
- General Chemistry I, II
- Biochemistry
- Organic Chemistry I, II
- Geology
- Principles of Physics I, II
- Electricity and Magnetism
- Atomic and Nuclear Physics

Mathematics

- **Algebra I, 1 credit**
Introduction to algebraic concepts including variables, equations, applications and problem-solving, number line, transforming equations, factoring, fractions, polynomials, ration and proportion, fractional equations, linear equations, and functions.
- **Geometry, 1 credit**
This course will cover the State of Connecticut's Standards for high school geometry course. The objectives of this class are to give the student knowledge of Euclidean Geometry. The student will understand the concepts of parallel, perpendicular lines, congruency of line, angles, and triangles. Students will learn the construct of midpoint and bisection of lines and angles. Students will understand similarity and quadrilaterals, area and volume formula, and be introduced to trigonometric functions.
- **Algebra II, 1 credit**
This course will cover the State of Connecticut's Standards for a second year high school algebra course. The objective of this class is to give students knowledge of algebraic expressions, functions, equations, graphs, linear systems, quadratic equations, polynomials, radical functions and rational exponents, logarithmic functions, rational functions, conics and translations, sequences and series, statistics, probability, and trigonometric functions.
- **Precalculus, 1 credit**
This course will cover the State of Connecticut's Standard for a high school pre-calculus course. The objective of this class is to give student knowledge of functions and graphs, modeling and finding the zeros of polynomials, exponential, logistic and logarithmic functions. The student will be exposed to trigonometric functions, identities and applications of trigonometry. The student will solve systems of equations; learn conics and discrete math; and be introduced to limits, derivatives and integration.
- **Business Math, 1 credit**
This course covers a range of business topics. In particular, it exposes students to the mathematical applications behind businesses and banks. The course begins with a brief review of arithmetic before eventually addressing topics such as cost markup, interest, stocks, taxes, and statistics. Student learning is primarily driven through regular practice of application problems and word problems. The course also involves projects outside the textbook, using Excel, personal finance management, and business writing. Through this comprehensive overview, the course seeks to grow financial responsibility in its students.
- **Precollege Math, 1 credit**
This course This course introduces students to essential algebraic concepts necessary for college math readiness. Students will master foundational skills such as solving linear and quadratic equations, interpreting functions, and manipulating polynomials. In addition to core math instruction, students will apply algebra to real-life scenarios through financial literacy projects covering compound interest, investing, loans, taxes, and mortgages.

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Other mathematics courses are available to qualified juniors and seniors through the University of Bridgeport and CT State Community College (Housatonic), including:

- Calculus and Analytic Geometry I, II, and III
- Statistics
- Linear Algebra
- Advanced Calculus I, II

Social Studies

- **Ancient Civilizations, 1 credit**

This course begins with foundations of civilization in prehistory and ends with the late Middle Ages. Among the civilizations highlighted are those in Africa, the Fertile Crescent, the Mediterranean, Europe, Asia, and the Americas, including Ancient Sumer, Egypt, India, Pakistan, China, Ancient Greece, the Roman Republic and Empire, civilizations of Mesoamerica and Andean cultures, and the Byzantine Empire. The rise of Christianity and Islam are addressed, as well as Muslim civilizations, kingdoms and trading states in Africa, and the spread of civilization in East and Southeast Asia. During each historical period, the focus will be on vital political economic, intellectual, geographic, social, cultural and religious themes. Students should emerge with a keen awareness of the impact geography has had on the development of civilization, the richness of contribution of the world's religions to human development, and a very practical knowledge of where countries are located.

- **Modern Civilizations, 1 credit**

Modern Civilizations covers the period from the Renaissance through the present. As an introductory course, students will be introduced to global history from early modern times including an investigation of how various cultures were influenced by historical events. The course introduces students to the cultures, people and events that have shaped the modern world. Students will be exposed to the roots of Western Civilization and the development of the political system that culminates in democracy. The significant time periods of the Renaissance, the Age of Exploration, Religious Reformation, the Era of Enlightenment, the American and French Revolutions, the Scientific Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, the World Wars, the Cold War, and the world today will be investigated. The course traces the development of humankind, the making of nations, international relations, and values, traditions and cultures of various civilizations worldwide.

- **American History and Government, 1 credit**

This course begins with the arrival of the first English colonists in 1607 and follows the emergence of America as the supreme Western power during the last 100 years. Students study America's political, social, economic and religious beliefs, practices and institutions. Consideration is given to the unique conditions that characterize American life: racial, ethnic and religious diversity; geographic mobility; and immigration. The course seeks to help students to develop their historical understanding, improve their writing and research skills, and understand how historical events and people are variously interpreted.

The course also provide an in-depth understanding of American government, with some treatment of international bodies and of the polities of other nations. It provides a portrait of how the American political system works. Topics discussed include citizenship,

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development of democracy, separation of powers, division of powers, and the federal system. The branches of government (the executive, legislative, and judicial) are explored in detail. An additional objective is to motivate students toward positive citizenship.

- **Social Sciences Survey, 1 credit**

This multidisciplinary course introduces the student to a number of fields within the social sciences, with emphasis on psychology, world religions, and philosophy. In addition to providing a broad perspective on these fields, the course also is aimed at helping the student to develop critical thinking skills, learning how to differentiate sources of information, examine concepts intelligently, and discourse rationally. Spanning major dimensions of the human experience, the social sciences survey course helps students to understand human behavior and reasoning and the social and religious dimensions of the world in which they live.

- **World Religions, 1 credit**

Religions have been, and continue to be, a central part of the human experience, influencing individuals, cultures, and societies, inspiring some of the world's greatest artistic achievements, while influencing the development of history across the globe. This course immerses the students in a board understanding of the origins, history, practices, beliefs, impacts, historical figures and major characteristics of the world's major religions. Among the religions covered are Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and various indigenous and new religions. Study is supplement with readings from primary texts.

- **Psychology, 1 credit**

This course provides an introduction to the field of psychology, including such topics as the brain, neuronal structure, memory, learning, sensation, perception, consciousness, sleep and dreaming, cognitive and social development, personality, social influence, and psychopathology.

- **Sociology, 1 credit**

This course provides an introduction to the field of sociology, examining social structures, social forces, group relations, culture, racial and ethnic relations, poverty, and in general the social, political, and economic phenomena of the world through social interactions.

Other social studies courses are available to qualified juniors and seniors through the University of Bridgeport and CT State Community College (Housatonic), including such courses as:

- Philosophy
- Principles of Economics
- Major Figures in World History
- Roots of Modern Culture
- Counseling
- Human Services
- Economics and Development
- Introduction to Political Economy
- Business Law
- Marketing
- Ethics
- Philosophy of World Religions
- Political Theory
- Child Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- History of Psychology
- Principles of Sociology
- Marriage and the Family

Technology

- **Computer Science, 1 credit**

This course will offer an introductory level of hands-on computer lab training. Initial lessons begin with the study of Primal PC and Network systems, followed by keyboarding practice. Lessons advance to Microsoft application software for documentation, spreadsheet, and database practices. Graphic application software and presentation software lessons are provided as the student progresses during the fall semester.

The spring semester includes instruction and practical experience in programming and building websites using HTML and Javascript languages. Mini and term graphic design projects include creating web pages via online website builders. There will be presentation practice for students' work utilizing projectors. While most of the class will be hands-on instruction, there will be occasional video presentations to increase knowledge of technology applications and history of computer industries.

- **Computer Internship, 1 credit**

This course is a project-oriented course of instruction and practical computer science application under the supervision of the BIA computer department. Among projects students may be engaged in are contributing to the BIA computer system architecture and development of the BIA website. To be a candidate for selection for the internship, the student must have a substantial knowledge of HTML web development and PC–Network structure. Students will be required to use computer skills learned in previous computer classes, clear thinking and problem solving skills. In the process of the internship, students will learn to support basic systems programming across computer network systems, and gain experience in development of system application programs based on client-server model, website structural design, and analytical skills for decomposition of computer systems.

- **Digital Arts, 0.5 credit**

The digital arts course focuses on digital literature in the 21st Century, preparing students in such areas as digital filmmaking, graphic design, computer-aided design, web design and development, and communication arts. Students produce videos for TV and school presentations and develop familiarity with using the green screen stage for productions.

(This course may count toward the Technology requirement or the Caren & Life Skills requirement.)

Other course in technology, as well as engineering, are available to qualified juniors and seniors through the University of Bridgeport and CT State Community College (Housatonic), including such courses as:

- Introduction to Computing I, II
- Introduction to Engineering I, II
- Computer Ethics
- Digital System Design
- Electrical Engineering with Lab
- Microprocessor System Design
- Visual Basic Programming
- Java Programming
- Database Theory

Career and Life Skills

- **College and Careers, 0.5 credit**

This course offers a survey of colleges and careers, practical skills for completing college applications, an overview of applying for financial aid, standardized test (SAT, ACT, PSAT) preparation, writing application essays, resume writing, and interviewing skills..

- **Character Education, 0.25 credit**

This course addresses three major topics: the individual, relationships, and community. With respect to the individual, there is a focus on individual identity: how one builds his or her identity and what impacts personal growth. Among questions addressed are: What is identity? How does society impact our identity? How do we value our identity and stay true to our identity? With respect to the topic of relationships, there is a focus on how one impacts those around himself or herself, including one's role in the family and friendships. Addressed are issues of effective communication, healthy friendships, effective conflict resolution, and how to improve relationships with one's family. With respect to the topic of community, addressed is one's role in the world. Examined are different cultures and their shared values, one's impact on their environment, and how to be a positive influence in one's community and in the world.

- **Health and Human Biology, 0.5 credits**

This course focuses on health issues and human biology concurrently. Topics examined in depth include health decision making, stress, mental disorders and suicide, family and peer relationships, food and nutrition, exercise and lifelong fitness, alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse, first aid, reproduction and heredity, pregnancy and childbirth, childhood, adolescence and adulthood, infectious and sexually transmitted diseases, disease prevention, accident prevention, the digestive and excretory systems, circulatory and respiratory systems, the muscular and skeletal systems, the integumentary system, the nervous system, and the immune system.

- **Physical Education, .5 credit**

Gym class meets by gender two times per week. The physical education program provides knowledge and skills to engage in a life of physical activity and other healthy lifetime practices. Intramural sports such as basketball, tennis, volleyball, swimming, soccer, softball, handball, and other sports are available at that time and other times. Physical education activities take place both at the Wheeler Recreation Center on the University of Bridgeport Campus and in Seaside Park.

- **Dance (PE Alternative)**
- **Yoga (PE Alternative)**
- **Zumba (PE Alternative)**

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- **Publications and Yearbook, .5 credit**
This hands-on class offers an opportunity to create the school yearbook, as well as learning the basics of journalism through social media and the creation of the school newsletter. Students are solely responsible for the digital production, the group-imposed and administration imposed deadlines, and the journalism and photography that is used in the publication.
- **Fine Arts, .25 credit (per one semester)**
Students learn the importance of art, study the particular styles of famous artists, and are guided to utilize different media in their own artistic expressions. The classroom study portion includes presentations and discussions on what inspired certain artists and how they contributed to the world through their art, including such as Georgia O’Keeffe, George Pierre Seurat, Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso, and Frida Kahlo. Students practically learn the fundamentals of drawing and painting through color, line, shape, and structure. Individual attention is paid to each student to learn proportions, lighting, outlining, and perspective. Oil paint, chalk pastels, charcoal, watercolors, and acrylic paints are used as mediums. There is drawing from observation, portraits, and still life. Students start with line drawing with charcoal to learn about light and shadows and progressively move onto painting with acrylic and oils. A technique called “like Picasso” is taught and explored for the more abstract mind.
- **Mentoring .25 credit (per one semester)**
Students work with elementary students, one-on-one or in small groups, at a nearby elementary school, helping them to learn basic skills in reading, mathematics, and other subjects.
- **Drama (Actors Studio) and Musical Theater, 0.5 credits (full year)**
Students develop skills in various areas in theatre production: acting, scriptwriting, set construction, costumes, lighting and sound effects, and production management. Emphasis will be placed on training students to become actors and actresses through team building activities and acting workshops. At the end of the course, students will consolidate what they have learnt by producing at least one drama or musical performance.
- **Stagecraft, 0.5 credits (full year)**
Students develop skills in seven technical aspects of theatre production: costumes, makeup, props, sound engineering, lighting, scenery, and stage management.
- **Chorus, .25 credit (per one semester)**
An assortment of topics that involve singing are studied and students apply their musical skills and techniques by rehearsing and performing a variety of songs. Some students also prepare songs for presentation in the school drama production, particularly for musical productions.
- **Ensemble/Band, .25 credit (per one semester)**
Student musicians learn and develop a deeper understanding of musical concepts and practice and perform a variety of quality ensemble/band literature.
- **Digital Arts, 0.5 credit**
The digital arts course focuses on digital literature in the 21st Century, preparing students in such areas as digital filmmaking, graphic design, computer-aided design, web design and

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development, and communication arts. Students produce videos for TV and school presentations and develop familiarity with using the green screen stage for productions. (This course may count toward Caren & Life Skills requirement or Technology requirement)

Other courses are available to qualified juniors and seniors through the University of Bridgeport and CT State Community College (Housatonic), including such courses as::

- Accounting
- Art & Design
- Art History
- History of Martial Arts
- Taekwondo Practicum 1-15
- Martial Arts and East Asian Thought
- Video
- Photography
- Interior Design
- Fashion Fundamentals
- Public Communication
- Music
- Music Education
- Conducting
- Introduction to Theatre

Modern Languages

- **Spanish I and Spanish II, 1 credit each**
Introductory and intermediate Spanish course work is designed to familiarize the students with Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and culture. Student will practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing Spanish. Pronunciation, aural comprehension and conversation are practiced daily.
- **Chinese I and Chinese II, 1 credit each**
Introductory and Intermediate Chinese are basic courses for beginning students of Chinese. The course introduces the student to the Chinese language, including speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural knowledge. The student gains expertise in both spoken and writing Chinese, with the objective to be able to use Chinese in the classroom and communities where the Chinese language is used.
- **Korean I and Korean II, 1 credit each**
Introductory and Intermediate Korean are designed to help students develop the five language competencies – speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural knowledge.
- **Japanese I and Japanese II, 1 credit each**
Introduction to the Japanese language, including speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural knowledge. The course introduces the student to the Japanese writing system, pronunciation, and basic conversation. Vocabulary and grammar skills will be taught using situational contexts.

Other languages are available to qualified juniors and seniors through the University of Bridgeport and CT State Community College Housatonic, including:

- Arabic
- French
- Russian
- Sign Language

English Language Learner Program

The English Language Learner (ELL) program is based on a series of intensive English courses for the student whose limited English fluency inhibits the ability to perform at an acceptable level in mainstream courses. The focus is on the language skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening with attention given to the grammar and structure of the English language. Most ELL courses count partially toward the English credits required for graduation. Some subject courses, such as ELL American History and Government, also fulfill particular non-English credits required for graduation. Specifics related to placement and graduation from ELL courses to particular mainstream courses is outlined in the *Student/Parent Handbook*.

Note: Courses offerings have differed from year to year in order to meet the needs of particular students in any given school year.

- **ELL Intermediate Reading and Writing, 1 credit.**
The student will learn academic writing skills, as well as practicing English in a variety of settings. This is a practical course that requires the student to work with his/her own writing, in order to develop academic writing skills. This is designed as a beginner's level English grammar course as well. There will be focus on verb tenses, word order, parts of speech, sentence structure and grammatical points related to the foregoing, as well as building the student's use of basic vocabulary through readings and the grammar text and its accompanying workbook. Added to this is a listening component comprised of short passages followed by basic listening comprehension questions.
- **English Language Lab, 1 credit.**
This course is a multi-faced approach for supplementing the English Language Learner's acquisition of proficiency in the language. The instructor tailors to the class to the particular needs of the students, whether that be assisting them with coursework from mainstream courses, or addressing grammar, or using Rosetta Stone.
- **ELL Intro Grammar and Vocabulary, 1 credit**
This is designed as a beginner's level English grammar course, focusing on verb tenses, word order, parts of speech, sentence structure and grammatical points related to the foregoing, as well as building the students' use of basic vocabulary through the grammar text and its accompanying workbook. Added to this is a listening component comprised of short passages followed by basic listening comprehension questions.
- **ELL Intro Reading and Literature, 1 credit**
This is designed as a beginner's level reading course. Initially, beginning readers will be used to establish basic reading skills, as well as augment the range of vocabulary. Later, a beginner's level short story literature text will be introduced, encouraging students to understand human experience across time and space, and to introduce them to the specialized language of literary texts. Conversational and listening skills are important as students are encouraged to discuss

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the readings intelligently.

- **ELL Intro Writing and Speaking, 1 credit**

The student will learn academic writing skills, as well as practicing speaking English in a variety of settings. This is a practical course that requires the student to work with his/her own writing, in order to develop academic writing skills.

- **ELL Conversation, 1 credit**

This course focuses on conversational skills.

- **ELL General Science, 1 credit**

This course helps the student to develop English language, academic skills by introducing scientific concepts and terminology in the English language. It employs texts that cover all the fundamental branches of the natural sciences.

- **ELL Health, 0.5 credits**

This course follows the content in the mainstream Health/Human Biology course and serves as both a language course and a required health course. Students not quite ready for the rigor of the mainstream course are placed this class.

- **ELL Intermediate Reading and Literature, 1 credit**

Students will read short stories by well-known writers. Emphasis is placed on reading out-loud as well as individual reading at home. The stories are divided into parts with comprehension questions and practice exercises using new language acquired and grammar presented. Students will practice drawing conclusions, making predictions and comparing and contrasting characters in stories. They will also practice finding the main idea, summarizing, and making inferences in short stories.

- **ELL General Vocabulary I and II, 1 credit**

The General Vocabulary courses I and II are designed to prepare students for mainstream classes working from the beginner level and moving to intermediate and advanced. While covering general English vocabulary, the class also addresses vocabulary related to science, mathematics, and social science and acts as a foundation to prepare students for TOEFL and SAT exams. Some emphasis on accent reduction and verbal communication is included

- **ELL Intermediate Grammar, 1 credit**

This is designed as an intermediate-to-advanced level English grammar course, focusing on verb tenses, word order, parts of speech, sentence structure and grammatical points related to the foregoing. This course offers a systematic study of English language structure, covers English word order in basic sentence types, and emphasizes verb forms from simple to perfect tenses. Students will become familiar with higher verb tenses, noun and adjective clauses, as well as articles, prepositions, idiomatic expressions, and other structures specific to English. Added to this is a listening component comprised of short passages followed by basic listening comprehension questions.

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- **ELL Intermediate Writing, 1 credit**

The student will learn intermediate-to-advanced level academic writing skills, as well as practicing speaking English in a variety of settings. This is a practical course that requires the student to work with his/her own writing, in order to develop academic writing skills.

- **ELL American History & Government, 1 credit**

This course follows the content in the mainstream American History and Government course while being specifically tailored to the language needs of English language learners. Students not quite ready for the rigor of the mainstream course are placed this class. Students will learn underlying principles and concepts related to key events in American history with a perspective as to how US government works and functions. The course provides an insight into American culture and politics, including an understanding of basic political processes, citizenship, and historic development of important American trends that have shaped the nation's consciousness. Along with learning the content, the students will develop the English language skills, vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, and communicative skills they need for studying in an American high school and/or college. Instruction will be augmented by activities, documentaries, and film clips in order to fill in background knowledge and aid in English instruction. Students who complete this course are not expected to re-take US History/Government.

POLICY ON DISTANCE EDUCATION/INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSES

At times, students at BIA may wish to supplement their education by taking high school distance education/independent study courses offered by other institutions. Taking such courses can be helpful in a number of ways, including assisting students who transfer to BIA with inadequate credits to graduate on time; overcoming scheduling conflicts that prevent the taking of desired courses; and, in general, allowing a broader course selection to students. However, it is important that any such courses meet BIA's rigorous academic standards and students may not take distance education/independent study courses to replace a course offered at BIA when there is not a schedule conflict.

BIA students wishing to take such distance education or independent study courses for credit at BIA must obtain prior approval from the academic dean and headmaster. Generally, such approval is provided only for the following reasons: (1) Scheduling conflict, whereby a needed or desired course is not available at BIA or cannot fit into the student's schedule; (2) Inadequate transfer credits, whereby such extra courses will allow a student who transferred to BIA to graduate on time; and (3) Special graduation-related situations, whereby unforeseen circumstances require that a student complete his or her credits for graduation earlier than usual or outside of the classroom setting. Students may also take such courses simply to supplement their education, but in such cases are limited to courses totaling at most one credit per year, and the credits earned do not count towards the graduation requirements, either in terms of minimum credits per subject area or total credits.

STANDARDIZED TESTING – SAT, ACT, TOEFL, PSAT

Standardized tests are opportunities for students to demonstrate their mastery of a given subject and general reasoning abilities. Tests provide a standard measure independent of local school or country norms. Standardized test scores are recognized credentials in most college admission applications.

The Academic Counseling Office and the Office of the Academic Dean will inform and help to prepare students for upcoming testing dates, registration deadlines, and test date information for SAT, ACT, and TOEFL tests. The College and Careers course offers detailed information on taking standardized tests (as well as practical skills for completing college applications, applying for scholarships, writing application essays, and college interview skills). BIA also conducts yearly the PSAT test.

The CEEB number for BIA, a number needed for students to register for any of these national tests, is 070060.

The Tests

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) The PSAT is a standardized test that provides practice for the SAT, gives the student an assessment of where he or she stands relative to other college applicants, and provides a student feedback on his or her strengths and weakness for college study, allowing them to better prepare for both the SAT and for college. It also allows students to enter the competition for National Merit Scholarships.

Students register for the PSAT only through high schools that are members of the College Board. BIA, as a member of College Board and conducts the PSAT test for all members of its junior class (11th grade) and the PSAT 9 for freshmen (9th grade). These tests are offered at BIA during the fall semester.

Pre-ACT. The Pre-ACT is conducted every year for BIA sophomores (10th grade). The test is offered at BIA during the fall semester.

SAT and ACT

Colleges in the United States that require freshman applicants to take a standardized test for admissions generally accept either the SAT or the ACT. Students and their families can obtain testing schedules, registration information, and helpful preparation information for the SAT at the College Board's web site: www.collegeboard.com. Information on the ACT can be found at ACT, Inc. website at www.act.org.

SAT. The SAT was originally titled Scholastic Aptitude Test and then the SAT I and more recently the SAT Reasoning Test. It is now simply referred to as the SAT. The SAT tests are owned and published by the College Board and administered by the Educational Testing Service. In recent years, until the spring of 2016, the SAT was a four-hour test that assesses the three areas of verbal, mathematical reasoning, and writing ability, and was scored on a scale of 200-800 on each of the verbal, math, and writing sections, and thus based on a 2400-point scale overall. In the spring of 2016, a redesigned version was unveiled as a three-hour test. It reverted to the 1600-point scale used prior to 2006 and is now offered electronically.

ACT. The ACT is an approximately three-hour standardized test with four sections (English,

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mathematics, reading, and science). If a student's SAT tests seem to undervalue the student's actual achievement and ability, the student may be recommended to take the ACT.

TOEFL

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is a standardized test used to assess the English language ability of non-native speakers. It is often a requirement of international students applying for admission to American universities. TOEFL is administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). This approximately four-hour test assesses English ability in the four areas of reading, listening, writing, and speaking.

Remember: Check with each college or university to which you apply to find out that particular university's standardized testing requirement.