

## **9TH GRADE COURSE SELECTION SUPPLEMENT**

This *Program of Academic Studies* supplement is provided for students and parents/guardians to help each student select the best courses. Ninth grade begins the pathway through high school that may lead to college (2 or 4 years), technical training and/or work. Because ninth grade courses are counted in the requirements for graduation, students and parents need to begin to understand the high school program. We hope that students and parents will read this booklet carefully and discuss options during the selection process.

It is very important that the student select the program and courses that best meet his/her needs. Parents and students should consider the student's abilities, interests, achievement, aptitude, and work ethic in order to select appropriate and challenging courses.

### **PROCEDURE FOR COURSE SELECTION**

School counselors will speak to students about the course selection process. Students will learn how to use this "Program of Academic Studies" and the Course Selection Worksheet. Students will also learn about the required courses and electives they may choose. All students are required to be scheduled for a minimum of 42 instructional periods out of the 48 periods in the six-day cycle. Counselors will provide opportunities for students to ask questions about the course selection process.

Parents are asked to:

- Review the "Program of Academic Studies" and discuss course offerings with your student.
- Consider the recommendations of teachers and counselors as you and your student complete the "Course Worksheet" at the back of this booklet.
- Select at least 42 periods of classroom instruction.
- Select alternates for elective courses (in case something cannot be scheduled).
- Sign the "Course Registration Card" and return it to school promptly.

### **SIX-DAY CYCLE**

In junior high school, students are scheduled for classes within a six-day cycle. Rather than scheduling certain classes for Monday and Thursday each week, a 2 periods/cycle class may be scheduled for "days 2 and 4" or "days 3 and 6", and a 3 periods/cycle class may be scheduled for "days 1, 3, and 5". In the event of a school closing (e.g. snow day), the scheduled number day is lost and we move to the next number in the cycle.

## **COUNSELING SERVICES**

Counseling services are aimed at helping each student to have the most successful school experience possible. Students are encouraged to expand their knowledge by building upon previous experiences, developing a deeper understanding of their strengths and needs, and gaining an understanding of themselves and their relationship to the changing world in which they live.

Counselors work with students in large and small groups as well as individually. With parental permission, students who wish to work with others on finding solutions to concerns that prevent them from doing their best in school may have group counseling opportunities.

Counselors are responsible for administering standardized tests such as the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) in grades seven and eight and the Explore test in grade nine. Counselors are also available to interpret test results.

Students may arrange for a conference with their school counselor by completing an appointment form in the office. If the need for an appointment is urgent, students are asked to alert the administrative assistant who will see that a counselor contacts the student as soon as possible. Parents who wish to speak to a counselor or schedule an appointment should call the school counseling office.

## **PROMOTION GUIDELINES**

Students must pass English, math, science, social studies, in grade eight to be promoted to grade nine. If a student is declared eligible for Summer School, those courses must be satisfactorily completed in order for the student to be promoted.

In order to be promoted from one grade to the next students must pass the following minimum number of credits, accumulating them as follows:

9th Grade – 5.5 credits = 5.5 Credits  
10th Grade – 6.0 credits = 11.5 Credits  
11th Grade – 6.0 credits = 17.5 Credits  
12th Grade – 6.5 credits = 24.0 Credits

The Boyertown Area School District also has a ten-book reading requirement which must be fulfilled to be promoted to the next grade level.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The special education program is designed to meet the special needs of students identified as eligible and/or exceptional. Specially designed instruction may be provided in special education programs operated within district schools or other programs outside the district.

In order to meet the criteria for special education consideration, a multidisciplinary team convenes to complete a Comprehensive Evaluation and to provide recommendations to an Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team. The IEP Team will determine the student's eligibility. If the student is determined to need specially designed instruction, the IEP team will provide the exceptional student the most appropriate educational program and placement. An exceptional student's program and placement is re-evaluated every two years in order to assure the most appropriate educational program and placement.

The Learning Support program is designed to meet the academic and social/emotional needs of exceptional students. Improving basic reading, English, math, science, and social studies is emphasized. Instructional modifications and adaptations are designed to meet the individual's educational needs. The IEP may include a behavior management program to develop, increase, and/or maintain skills that will enhance an individual's opportunity for learning.

## **CLASS RANK**

All ninth grade courses are counted towards the student's Grade Point Average (GPA) from which high school class rank is derived. Honors courses: If a student achieves a "B" or "A" in an honors course, the GPA will be raised 0.1.

## **HONORS COURSES**

If a student is considering the honors level courses, s/he must understand that these courses are intended for responsible, motivated and self-directed students who are interested in an enriched experience in a specific subject area. A student must have the ability and desire to cope with the increased academic demands and requirements of these courses. Teachers will recommend students who, based on their performance and achievement, are likely to succeed in honors courses.

### **Recommendation Criteria:**

- Classroom Performance
- Quarterly Grades
- Standardized Test Scores

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Boyertown Area School District's Strategic Plan, adopted by the Board of School Directors in 2006, established that four requirements must be met in order for a student to qualify for a high school graduation diploma. These requirements are known as Graduation Requirements. The requirements are:

1. Demonstration of having mastered the Pennsylvania Academic Standards
2. Annual completion of the school district's Reading Requirement
3. Completion of a student project (The Capstone Project)
4. Earning 24 credits in grades 9 - 12 from a specific list of planned courses

As students select classes for ninth grade, it is important to know that these credits will count toward high school graduation requirements. Graduation from Boyertown Area Senior High School involves the accumulation of the following credits:

**Minimum** number of courses/credits needed for graduation:

<b><u>Subject</u></b>	<b><u>Specified As</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>
English	The equivalent of four year-long courses in grades 9-12	4.00
Social Studies	The equivalent of four year-long courses in grades 9-12	4.00
Science*	Three year long courses in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12	3.00
Mathematics**	Three year long courses in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12	3.00
Health	Two planned courses, one each in grades 10 and 12	.59
Physical Education	Four planned courses, one in each grades 9-12	1.66

**Electives** (See Course Description Section)

Computer Applications***	Two planned courses in grades 9-12	.83
Arts and Humanities		1.00
Other Electives		5.92

***TOTAL CREDITS IN GRADES 9 THROUGH 12 MUST EQUAL OR EXCEED 24.00***

***NOTE:*** Students who are considering the Career and Technology Center must take an Arts and Humanities and a Computer Applications course in 9th grade in order to be able to fulfill the graduation requirements.

\* Students who plan on attending a four year college/university are encouraged to take four courses.

\*\* Incoming freshmen (Class of 2013) should be aware that mathematics requirements may be revised to include a fourth year-long course as a requirement for graduation.

\*\* One planned course that includes significant computer application. The second planned course may be accredited through demonstration of advanced computer skill on a computer applications test. A computer applications course is one which integrates the use of the computer into the instruction, i.e. a CADD course in technology education, a science course which uses simulations and internet strategies, etc.

# BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 9<sup>th</sup> GRADE COURSE OFFERINGS 2009-2010

<u>LANGUAGE ARTS</u>	<u>PERIODS/CYCLE</u>	<u>ART</u>	<u>PERIODS/CYCLE</u>
English	6	* Two Dimensional Design	3
Honors English	6	* Three Dimensional Design	3
* Journalism	3	* Adv. Two Dimensional Design	3
* Drama	3	* Adv. Three Dimensional Design	3
* Public Speaking	3		
 <u>SCIENCE</u>		 <u>MUSIC</u>	
Physical Science	6	* Band	3
Honors Physical Science	6	* Orchestra	3
Environmental Science	3	* Concert Choir	2
		* Show Choir	2
 <u>SOCIAL STUDIES</u>		 <u>GIFTED/ENRICHMENT</u>	
19 <sup>th</sup> Century American Studies	6	Enrichment Seminar	
Honors 19 <sup>th</sup> Century American Studies	6		
 <u>MATH</u>		 <u>FAMILY/CONSUMER SCIENCE</u>	
Algebra I-B	12	Survival 101	3
Honors Geometry	6	21st Century Living	3
Honors Algebra II	6		
 <u>BUSINESS/COMPUTER</u>		 <u>TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION</u>	
** IC3 Computer Integration	3	** Architectural CADD	3
Virtual Bus. & Personal Finance	3	** Problem Solving	3
		Materials Technology	3
 <u>WORLD LANGUAGE</u>		 <u>NJROTC</u>	
* German I	6	***Naval Science	6
* Spanish I	6		
 <u>HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION</u>		 * Counts as Arts/Humanities elective (See Graduation Requirements)  ** Counts as Computer Applications elective (See Graduation Requirements)  *** Fulfills physical education requirement	
Physical Education	3		

## **ART**

### **TWO-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

The elements and principles of art will be developed through drawing and painting. Course work will include exploration of media and techniques in developing a student's personal visual language. An introduction to art history and art criticism is included.

### **THREE-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

The elements of Art and Design will be developed using clay, paper, metal, wood, and fibers. Emphasis is placed on quality design and craftsmanship. Knowledge of materials, use of tools/equipment, and techniques will be taught. Historical research of artists, styles and techniques is included.

### **ADVANCED TWO-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

This advanced course is for serious, committed art students who have demonstrated a high degree of talent and motivation in two-dimensional art. Students will work in a self-directed setting to create independent work the quality of which could be included in a personal portfolio for art school. Research, thinking skills, art history, art criticism and studio skills will be emphasized, including trips to art museums and galleries.

### **ADVANCED THREE-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

This advanced course is for serious, committed art students who have demonstrated a high degree of talent and motivation in three-dimensional art. Students will work in a self-directed setting to create independent work the quality of which could be included in a personal portfolio for art school. Research, thinking skills, art history, art criticism and studio skills will be emphasized, including trips to art museums and galleries.

## **BUSINESS/COMPUTER**

### **IC3 COMPUTER INTEGRATION**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

This course offers a more in-depth exploration of Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint, which were introduced in Computer 8.

Other components of the Microsoft Office suite that will be introduced are Access and Publisher. Access is a database program that allows the user to store and organize large amounts of data. Publisher enables the student to produce professional looking publications such as newsletters, brochures, and flyers.

This is an essential course designed to introduce the computer skills that are needed for high school and for life after graduation. In addition, students will be able to take the first part of a three part IC3 exam. This exam is optional but highly recommended. Class activities will integrate several of these components to simulate real world applications.

This course fulfills ONE of the high school graduation requirements for computer applications.

## **BUSINESS/COMPUTER (continued)**

### **VIRTUAL BUSINESS AND PERSONAL FINANCE**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

Virtual Business and Personal Finance is a personal finance and “life skills” course that is centered around highly visual computer simulations. Students will learn personal financial literacy, life skills and career skills.

## **ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS**

### **ENGLISH**

**(6 Periods - 1 credit)**

The ninth grade English curriculum develops reading, writing, thinking, and speaking skills. Students will experience a wide variety of literature, including fiction and non-fiction, poetic and dramatic selections. Writing and speaking skills are emphasized in preparation for further education and careers. Traditional grammar, mechanics, and usage skills are continued as part of the writing process.

### **HONORS ENGLISH**

**(6 Periods - 1 credit)**

The ninth grade Honors curriculum analyzes classical literature as well as modern works destined to become classics. Students in this course will be challenged by delving deeper into the works studied and developing their thinking and writing skills at a higher level. Students will develop their communications skills through instruction in the writing process, individual projects, and oral presentations. Teachers will make recommendations for students to be approved/placed in this course.

### **DRAMA**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

This course introduces students to the world of the theater. Students will explore the history of the theater from ancient to modern times by reading various plays and investigating the many aspects of play production. Activities may include writing original scripts, performing scenes, and designing for an actual production.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

This course helps students develop the confidence needed to speak in front of others. Students will be involved with a variety of activities which will enable them to experience success in speaking to people in formal and informal situations.

### **JOURNALISM**

**(3 Periods - .5 credits)**

This course prepares students to write for the school newspaper or TV news. Students will learn how to gather news, interview, write stories and features, and present them for publication. Students will also explore modern media techniques and career options.

## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

### **SURVIVAL 101**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

Do you ever wonder how you will survive on your own? Well, this course is designed just for you. You will learn about: managing your money, preparing food, and balancing your responsibilities to your family, work and community. You will be involved in life-readiness activities that will empower you to manage the challenges of living in a diverse, global society.

### **21st CENTURY LIVING**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

This course develops the skill in becoming a wise consumer and decision-maker as students head toward the future. Students will explore sewing skills while creating a project. Students will also prepare interesting, healthful meals, and plan and participate in a social gathering. "Baby-Think-It-Over" is an optional activity.

## **GIFTED ENRICHMENT**

### **ENRICHMENT SEMINAR**

**(Scheduled separately)**

The purpose of the seminar enrichment program is to provide academically gifted students with opportunities to further develop skills which will aid them in the realization of the maximum potential of their talents. Before entering this course, each student must meet eligibility requirements as established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Boyertown Area School District. The course consists of seminars spread out over the school year. Academically gifted students are also encouraged to register for Honors courses.

The Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP) for the student will include the Enrichment Seminar Course for those who elect to participate. Students must satisfactorily participate in a majority of the seminars to earn the one-half credit offered for the course. Students should be aware that some seminars may be scheduled outside of mandatory school days, such as on a Saturday or in-service day. Students will be graded "Outstanding," "Satisfactory," or "Unsatisfactory." This course will carry one-half credit for satisfactory work but will not be part of the calculation of grade-point-average or class rank. As with all courses, an "Unsatisfactory" would deny the student academic recognition on the quarterly honor roll.

## **HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

This course introduces students to a variety of team and individual sport activities for lifetime fitness. Participation and performance levels are evaluated according to one's own ability in mastering a skill or activity.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **ALGEBRA IB**

**(12 periods - 1 credit)**

This is the second half of a two year Algebra I course. Topics in Algebra IA will be reinforced and new material covered. The curriculum covers equations and functions, polynomials, factoring, radicals, and rational expressions.

### **HONORS ALGEBRA II**

**(6 Periods - 1 credit)**

This accelerated curriculum explores Algebra II in greater depth. The course work is heavy and intense, preparing the student for Honor Mathematics courses in the senior high. It is recommended that a student have an "A" in Algebra I. Teachers will make recommendations for students to be approved/placed in this course. It is recommended that students have a TI-83+ calculator for this course.

### **HONORS GEOMETRY**

**(6 Periods - 1 credit)**

Geometry students will study the properties and applications of points, lines, planes and angles, reasoning, proofs and logic, congruent triangles, similarity, right triangles, circles, areas and volumes, transformations and conic sections. Since this is an honors class, students will be taught at a faster pace and will participate in enrichment projects.

## **MUSIC**

### **BAND**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

The band is comprised of students in grades 8 and 9 who play woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. The band performs marching music in the fall and spring. Students learn basic marching techniques in addition to musical skills. Participation requires after school time commitments. Students are expected to participate in fall marching performances. Following the fall marching season, the band prepares a winter and spring concert. Requirements for admission into the band include former instrumental experience and a satisfactory audition.

### **ORCHESTRA**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

The orchestra is comprised of students who play stringed instruments in Grades 8 and 9. Students perform for the winter and spring concert plus community appearances throughout the year. Participation requires after school time commitment. Requirements for admission into the orchestra include former instrumental experience or a satisfactory audition. Woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments may be added to the orchestra after school hours as needed.

### **CONCERT CHOIR**

**(2 Periods - .34 credit)**

Any 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade student interested in participating in a performing choral group may sign up for Concert Choir. The Concert Choir will learn two, three and four part compositions. All Concert Choir members will be graded based upon attendance at both the holiday and the spring concerts, attitude and effort.

## **MUSIC (continued)**

### **SHOW CHOIR**

**(2 Periods - .34 credit)**

Select chorus is a small, mixed choral ensemble open by audition only. Members will be chosen mainly from the Concert Choir to participate in this select group. In addition to participation in Concert Choir, Show Choir members are required to attend weekly evening rehearsals.

This choir learns varied types of musical compositions, including Broadway or “show choir” numbers with choreography. This choir performs throughout the community during the holiday season and in the spring. All Show Choir members will be graded based upon attendance at both the holiday and the spring concerts and rehearsals, attitude and effort.

*All students interested in Show Choir must sign-up for Concert Choir. Students for Show Choir will be selected from this group.*

## **SCIENCE**

### **PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

**(6 Periods - 1 credit)**

The ninth grade physical science course introduces students to the basic principles of physics and chemistry. Students experience scientific principles and learn scientific reasoning through discovery, inquiry and other means. The course includes a variety of hands-on laboratory exercises and demonstrations. Students are expected to gain a working knowledge of the metric system as they progress through the year in an in-depth study of matter and energy.

### **HONORS PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

**(6 Periods – 1 credit)**

Honors physical science is intended for those students that need the highest academic challenge, are proficient in math and writing, and have an interest in pursuing a science-related career. While the curriculum will vary little from that offered in the non-honors course, students are expected to perform at a higher level. Students will do numerous projects and reports (6-8 per year), perform more laboratory activities with a greater expectation of independence, and will be assessed in a more subjective test format (i.e. essays).

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

Students will explore current issues relating to the fields of biology, ecology, and environmental science. Students will draw on knowledge and skills from previous and concurrent science courses in order to examine human’s role in events and issues in the news. The class format will revolve around class discussion, debate, problem solving activities, and issue analysis. Topics will remain flexible, dependent on recent developments in scientific research and current media reporting. Topics may include land use issues, natural resources, human population changes, or wildlife management.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN STUDIES**

**(6 Periods - 1 credit)**

This course focuses on the development of America from the 1820s to 1900. Emphasis will be placed on the move westward, the Civil War, Reconstruction and industrialization.

### **HONORS 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN STUDIES**

**(6 Periods - 1 credit)**

The honors course in American history is designed for the self-motivated student who enjoys and excels in the study of history. This course is structured to be a more rigorous challenge to students through the use of supplemental readings, research projects and presentations. Teachers will make recommendations for students to be approved/placed in this course.

## **TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**

### **MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

Materials Technology involves the safe use of tools, machines, and materials in producing products that meet student needs. The students will be designing, building, and testing products using various materials and processes in a manufacturing environment.

### **PROBLEM SOLVING**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

This course offers exposure to transportation, construction, manufacturing, and communication activities. Computers play an important role in this course as students learn to program CNC machines and robots to do different activities. Students will also learn to safely use machines, simple tools, and materials. Students will use a hands-on approach while designing solutions to problems in both an individual and group setting.

### **ARCHITECTURAL CADD**

**(3 Periods - .5 credit)**

Architectural CADD (Computer Aided Drafting and Design) involves the use of computers to design and draw homes. The course will cover house construction, home styles, materials, exterior/interior treatments, and landscaping. Students will create plans based on their designs and build a scale model from these plans.

## **WORLD LANGUAGE**

*It is recommended that a student have a "C" or better in 8th grade English in order to select a world language.*

### **GERMAN I**

**(6 Periods - 1 credit)**

Development of listening and speaking skills. Study grammar of the spoken language. Special emphasis on to German culture as seen in the daily lives of young people.

## **WORLD LANGUAGE (continued)**

### **SPANISH I**

**(6 Periods - 1 credit)**

Introduction of basic conversational expressions. Development of vocabulary and basic grammatical structures. Main emphasis is on listening and speaking skills with basic introduction to reading and writing skills. Cultural aspects are introduced throughout the course.

### **NAVAL JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (NJROTC)**

Naval Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NJROTC) teaches you self-discipline, self-confidence, and leadership skills that can help you successfully meet life's challenges. NJROTC curriculum, instruction, and activities are designed to develop your leadership ability regardless of your career path. The Naval Science curriculum is usually three to four years in length. It consists of formal classroom training supplemented by ship training cruises, orientation visits, and field trips to various naval and military activities to enhance classroom studies. There is NO OBLIGATION to join the armed forces of the United States. Uniforms are on loan to cadets at no cost other than to maintain the cleanliness of the uniform. Completion of a three-year curriculum entitles a cadet graduate to additional opportunities for Military Academy nominations, ROTC scholarships at major colleges and universities, and if enlisting in the Armed Forces, a promotion of three ranks is guaranteed (except for the U.S. Marine Corps).

The six-day cycle is usually broken down into two days of military academic orientation, two days of drill training, and two days of physical fitness training. Each cadet is required to correctly wear the U.S. Navy uniform all day on one designated day per week (usually Wednesday), and for special functions. Following U.S. Navy grooming regulations while wearing the uniform is required; specifically:

Males – haircuts must be U.S. Navy Regulation and earrings may not be worn in the NJROTC classroom or when in uniform.

Females- hair must be worn in the style keeping hair above the collar when in uniform and only one set of earrings may be worn in the NJROTC classroom and one set of post earrings when in uniform.

### **NAVAL SCIENCE 1 2400 (Year)**

**(6 Periods - 1 credit)**

Naval Science 1 introduces students to the meaning of citizenship, the elements of leadership, the value of scholarship in attaining life goals, and engenders a sound appreciation for the heritage and traditions of America. It includes an introduction to leadership, naval customs and traditions, naval ships, their missions and organizations, maritime geography, naval aviation and orienteering. Students will take field trips, learn to drill, be involved in community activities and have the opportunity to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities.

**BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
9TH GRADE COURSE SELECTION WORKSHEET  
2009-2010**

<u>REQUIRED</u>	<u>PERIODS</u>	<u>CUMULATIVE PERIODS</u>
English/Honors English (By Recommendation)	6	
Physical Science/Honors Physical Science (By Recommendation)	6	
19th Century American Studies/Honors 19th Century American Studies (By Recommendation)	6	
Algebra IB/Honors Geometry/Honors Alg. II (By Recommendation)	6 (IB = 12)	
Physical Education	3	
<b>Required Total</b>	<b>27 or 33</b>	_____

<u>ELECTIVES</u>	<u>PERIODS</u>		
German I	6	_____	
Spanish I	6	_____	
IC3 Computer Integration	3	_____	
Virtual Business & Personal Finance	3	_____	
Drama	3	_____	
Public Speaking	3	_____	
Journalism	3	_____	
Environmental Issues	3	_____	
2D Art	3	_____	
Advanced 2D Art	3	_____	
3D Art	3	_____	
Advanced 3D Art	3	_____	
Survival 101	3	_____	
21st Century Living	3	_____	
Architectural CADD	3	_____	
Problem Solving	3	_____	
Materials Technology	3	_____	
Band	3	_____	
Orchestra	3	_____	
Concert Choir	2	_____	
Show Choir	2	_____	
Gifted	0	_____	
Naval Science I	6	_____	
		<b>Elective Total</b>	_____
		<b>Periods Grand Total</b>	_____

- ALTERNATE ELECTIVE COURSES**
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Students must schedule a minimum of 41 instructional periods and a maximum of 48 periods per cycle.**