

Basics

1. What time does school start and end?

School begins at 9am and ends at 3:35pm. The school building opens at 8am for breakfast and closes at 6pm for students.

2. How many periods are in a day? How long are classes?

There are 8 periods in a day, including lunch. Each class is 45 minutes. There are some classes, like some science labs, that are double periods.

3. How many students are in a class?

The average class size is 22 students, for 9th grade it may be slightly higher.

4. Can students go out for lunch?

The 9th graders are to remain on the school grounds for the entire school day.

5. How do students get to school?

FMJZ to Essex/Delancey Street and walk straight down Houston (about a mile)

M14D from 14th until Houston St/Mangin St (corner of the school).

There is no private transportation to BHSEC.

6. Is there a dress code?

No, but students are expected to dress appropriately. No hats are allowed to be worn in school.

7. How do grades interact with each other?

There are many opportunities for various grades to interact with each other: in classes, Writing and Thinking workshops, mentoring and tutoring programs, Big Sibs, clubs, and sports.

Academics

1. Will I have to repeat Algebra?

All incoming 9th graders are required to take Algebra and Geometry. This course is not a repeat of 8th grade Algebra.

2. What languages do you offer?

All 9th grade students will start with Introduction to Language and take Spanish, Latin, and Mandarin.

3. Can I take art?

Yes, you may choose to take art. However, in the 9th grade all students take the Introduction to Arts at BHSEC. They will take half a semester of visual art, dance, theater, and music.

4. How many hours of homework is typical of a 9th grade student?

This is dependent on the teachers you have and your work ethic. But many current 9th graders say two to three hours.

5. How available are teachers to students who need extra help?

Teachers are available to students during office hours, which may either be walk-in or scheduled. Teachers are also available via email to schedule meeting and tutoring time.

Extracurriculars

1. Is there time to participate in extracurricular activities?

Yes, if you are good at managing your time.

2. What sports do you have?

Yes, we have PSAL sports: Volleyball, Soccer, Tennis, Cross Country, and Basketball

We also have club sports: Ultimate Frisbee and Step Team

3. What clubs do you have?

<https://bhsec.bard.edu/manhattan/student-life/student-activities/>

4. Do you have to try out or have previous experience to participate in a sport or club?

For some teams you must try out for the athletic teams. For more information:

Please contact tmcveigh@bhsec.bard.edu

You do not have to try out to participate in a club but you may have to fulfil certain requirements to hold specific positions within a club.

5. Can I start a club?

Yes. You can learn about starting a club by visiting the student activities office.

6. How competitive are your athletic teams?

Check it out: <https://sites.google.com/site/bhsecathletics/home>

7. Is there theater or music?

Yes, we have both. All 9th grade students take Introduction to Arts at BHSEC. They will take half a semester of visual art, dance, theater, and music. In the 10th grade students can choose which art they would like to take. There are also clubs and ensembles for students to participate more in the field of theater and music.

Summer

1. Is there a summer program?

We typically have one Summer Bridge for all new incoming students. This is usually only one or two days long. For 2021 we will not be having Summer Bridge. We will be incorporating these social events into Writing and Thinking in the Fall. We also have a grant to host a Summer Scholars Program for students coming from specific middle schools. This is typically three to four weeks long and eligible students will be invited in the spring.

2. Is there summer homework?

Yes. Incoming 9th graders should read The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Alex Haley. Please read: [Letter from the Literature of the Americas Faculty](#)

[PDF of book](#)

3. Is there summer prep work?

At this time we do not have any other summer prep work for you. If anything changes an email will be sent out and this website will be updated.