

Buchanan

High School

2024-2025



Academic & Scheduling Information

8th Grade Course of Study *For CURRENT 7th Graders*

Next fall you will be transitioning to Buchanan High School. In preparation for your 8th grade year, it is necessary to schedule your classes for next year. Please keep in mind that ALL 8th grade classes are assigned to students, balancing students' choices with their academic record (grades, test scores, and teacher recommendations).

Each 8th grade student is required to take the following classes:

English 8	Math 8 OR Algebra 1	Science 8
History 8	Health AND Life Fitness	1 Elective Choice

Each 8th grade student is also given the opportunity to choose ONE of the following elective classes (Note - some classes are assigned based on need, and some classes may not be offered every year):

<u>Early High School</u>	<u>8th Grade Only</u>	<u>8th Grade Intervention</u>
Art Studies	Band 8	Transitions
Spanish 1	Art - 8th Grade	Adolescent Literature
	Choir	

Students in Algebra 1 will have the opportunity to apply to the Math and Science Center the March of their 8th grade year. These students should select Spanish 1 as their elective.

If you have questions about your schedule for next year, please be sure to talk to your parents, teachers or counselors.

Choosing your 9th grade Courses

For Current 8th graders

All Freshmen must take English 9 and US History & Geography.

You must also select a math course. Most freshmen take Algebra 1. If you are currently in Algebra 1 as an 8th grader, select Honors Geometry.

All Freshmen take a science class. Most will take Biology. If you are currently in Honors Science 8 as an 8th grader, you will select Honors Biology.

Math Science Center candidates should choose MSC AH Geometry & MSC AH Research Biology. Math/Science Center students must also select MSC AH Computer Science as one of their electives.

Freshmen have the opportunity to choose 2 electives. Between 8th and 9th grade, students should aim to complete all of the following electives: Health, Life Fitness, Spanish 1, and a VPAA elective such as Art Studies. See page 25 for a full list of courses that satisfy this requirement.

Students with an IEP should consult with their Special Education teacher to see if Transitions will be required as one of your electives for next year.

Choosing your 10th grade Courses

For Current 9th graders

All Sophomores must take English 10 and World History & Geography.

You must also select a math class. Most sophomores take Geometry. If you are currently enrolled in Honors Geometry, select Honors Algebra 2. In rare cases, students who are not ready for Honors Algebra 2 can be placed in standard Algebra 2.

All sophomores take a science class. Most will take Chemistry. If you are currently in Honors Biology, please select Honors Chemistry.

Math Science Center candidates should choose MSC AH Algebra 2, MSC AH Chemistry, & MSC AH Computer Programming.

Sophomores choose 2 electives.

Students with an IEP should consult with their Special Education teacher to see if Transitions will be required as one of your electives for next year.

Some AP, dual enrollment, and CTE courses typically open to 11th graders only may be taken early by sophomores. Please speak with your counselor if you are interested in one of these opportunities.

Choosing your 11th grade Courses *For Current 10th graders*

As a junior, next year, you will have more choices than ever before. You will be able to enroll in college at Lake Michigan College, or immerse yourself for 2-3 hours each day in a Career/Technical Education (CTE) program. You have more elective choices.

All Juniors take English 11, unless they are participants in the Early College Academy. Review your student “Self Audit” saved in your Google Drive to review any remaining graduation requirements.

Most Juniors will schedule English 11, Civics, Economics, Algebra 2, Chemistry or a science elective, and 2 additional high school electives.

If you began high school math in 8th grade, you will choose H* Pre-Calculus and/or AP Statistics, as well as an honors science elective such as H* Anatomy & Physiology or H* Physics. Honors students may choose regular science electives or CTE programs of study, but are highly encouraged to choose from the honors options.

A new option for all Juniors is enrollment into a CTE program. These programs are designed to immerse you in a potential career for 2-3 hours per day. We share programs with all districts across Berrien County. BHS will provide transportation to programs from Berrien Springs, Brandywine, and Niles along with our own off-campus programs like Sports Medicine. Berrien RESA maintains information on all programs in the county on their CTE website (berriencte.org). See page 28 of this guide for more.

Another option for Juniors is Dual Enrollment through Lake Michigan College, Southwestern Michigan College, or Andrews University (MSC students only). Please look for information regarding Dual Enrollment on page 27 of this course guide.

Choosing your 12th grade Courses

For Current 11th graders

As a senior, you have the same elective options as last year with a few exceptions. You will be able to dual enroll in college, immerse yourself for two-three (2-3) hours each day in a Career/Technical program, or fill your schedule with Buchanan High School electives.

All Seniors must take a Math Course (usually Personal Finance) and take Senior English, unless they are participants in the Early College Academy or Early/Middle College Program. You may select Honors Senior English or Senior English. Review your student “Self Audit” saved in your Google Drive to review any remaining graduation requirements.

Most Seniors have 4-5 hours a day available for electives. All Seniors must schedule 6 hours per day, regardless of the number of credits left before graduation. There are no exceptions to this, but you have a lot of choices to fill that day.

Enrollment in a Career-Technical program is still available to you. Cosmetology is now open to you, but you will need to provide your own transportation to this off-campus opportunity. See page 28 of this guide for more information about CTE.

Dual Enrollment is also available to you again this year. Information on Dual Enrollment can be found on page 27 of this guide.

Seniors are also eligible for school-to-work opportunities for 1-3 class periods of their school schedule. Students are responsible for finding their own work placements and notifying Mr. Frey by early Spring. All placements must be fully approved by May 1st of the previous school year. Placements that build on a CTE course of study will be given priority.

The following charts are a couple of examples of the many paths a student can take to fulfill graduation requirements. Please see your counselor if you have any questions or feel your path to graduation should look different. Buchanan High School recognizes that your high school experience should reflect your post-secondary goals and that not all students are required to take the same path to graduation.

Typical Course Sequence

8 th grade	9 th grade	10 th grade	11 th grade	12 th grade
ELA 8	ELA 9	ELA 10	ELA 11	ELA 12
Math 8	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	Math Elective
Science 8	Biology	Chemistry	Science Elective	Choice Elective
History 8	US History & Geo	World History & Geo	Civics & Economics	Choice Elective
Health / Wellness	Choice Elective	Choice Elective	Choice Elective	Choice Elective
8th Choice Elective	Choice Elective	Choice Elective	Choice Elective	Choice Elective

Typical Honors Course Sequence

8 th grade	9 th grade	10 th grade	11 th grade	12 th grade
ELA 8	ELA 9	ELA 10	ELA 11	H ELA 12
Alg 1	H Geometry	H Algebra 2	H Pre-Calculus	H Math Elective
Science 8	Biology	H Chemistry	H Physics	H Science Elective
History 8	US History & Geo	World History & Geo	AP Government	H Choice Elective
Health / Wellness	Choice Elective	Choice Elective	Choice Elective	Choice Elective

HS Choice Elective	Choice Elective	Choice Elective	Choice Elective	Choice Elective
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Graduation Requirements

Buchanan High School Diploma: Graduation from Buchanan High School requires that a student earn a total of 23 units of credit. Students must fulfill the MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM (MMC) requirement during the course of their educational tenure (K-12) to receive a Buchanan High School diploma. The 23 required units shall include at least the following 18 MMC required courses:

ENGLISH	4 credits
MATH	4 credits
(Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, 1 additional math <u>in the senior year</u>)	
SCIENCE	3 credits
(Biology, Chemistry or Physics, 1 additional science or CTE course)	
SOCIAL STUDIES	3 credits
(Civics/Economics, U.S. History, World History)	
P.E./HEALTH	1 credit
VISUAL/PERFORMING APPLIED ARTS	1 credit
WORLD LANGUAGE	2 credits
(1 credit of CTE or VPAA may replace 2nd credit)	

VPAA Courses: The following courses will satisfy the 1 VPAA credit required for graduation. Not all courses are offered in a given year.

Art Studies	Band
Introduction to Graphic Arts	H* Spanish 3
Business Administration Management	Any CTE course
Python: Introduction to Computer Science	Ceramics
Choir	Drama
My Virtual Academy (request catalog)	Yearbook

Personal Curriculum: The state has developed a tool to assist students who do not fit the traditional MMC model. It may be appropriate to use a personal curriculum (PC) option to modify the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) Requirements for some students. State statute allows personal curriculum modification in order to:

- Go beyond the academic credit requirements by adding more math, science, English, language arts, or world languages credits.
- Modify the mathematics requirement.
- Modify, if necessary, the credit requirements of a student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- Modify credit requirements for a student who transfers from out of state or from a nonpublic school and is unable to meet the MMC requirements.

The MMC defines consistent learning standards that are intended to remain constant from district to district. Districts choose instructional approaches and design learning environments so that all students, including alternative and at-risk students, can meet the requirements of the MMC. The research is clear – struggling learners do better when given the opportunity to learn in a challenging curriculum. Personal curriculum modifications must align with State standards and benchmarks and must not create barriers that limit a student's opportunity to be engaged in a challenging curriculum. The legislative intent of the PC is to individualize the rigor and relevance of the educational experience. In this context, "practicable" is an inclusive term meaning as much of the subject area content expectations as possible during high school instruction. Students with an IEP operate under this same context. The PC is an option any student or family can explore as a way to modify certain graduation requirements and earn a diploma. The purpose of secondary education is to prepare students for life after high school. Any modification to a student's graduation requirements needs to be consistent with this purpose. The high school diploma is documentation that the student has met the expectations and possesses the knowledge and skills necessary for postsecondary success. Students who are **not** pursuing a diploma or students who are **unable** to meet modified MMC requirements do not need a personal curriculum.

NOTE: Special Education Students: The Individualized Education Plan (IEP) shall identify the appropriate course or courses of study and identify the support, accommodations and modifications necessary to allow the pupil to progress in the curricular requirements, or in a Personal Curriculum and meet the requirements for a high school diploma. All students must meet MMC requirements to receive a diploma whether or not they have an individualized education program (IEP). The personal curriculum (PC) is a tool which can be used to modify requirements of the MMC for students with an IEP to access and be successful in meeting MMC requirements for a diploma. For complete details and the most current information on the MMC, visit the Michigan Department of Education's website: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_38924---,00.html

Clarification of Graduation Requirements: A student must meet/complete all 23 credits of the requirement to participate in the graduation ceremony, or have completed the requirements set forth in the agreement for a Certificate.

Testing Out: State Aid Act 380.1279b allows a student to test out of a course on a pass/fail basis. Guidelines for Testing Out:

- Student must receive a C+ or better on a comprehensive course examination (includes semester final tests and portfolio assignments) to fulfill a requirement for graduation or a prerequisite for a course sequence.
- A "CR" will be entered on the transcript, instead of a grade, if the student receives a C+ or better on the test.
- The course will not be computed in the student's GPA.
- Student can only attempt to test out of a specific class one time.

NOTE: Comprehensive course examinations include both semester tests (first and second semester) or comparable tests given to enrolled students. Tests assess the MDE Standards and Benchmarks and may take up to three hours to complete. Some courses may also require completion of a portfolio or major project as assigned by the instructor.

Dual Enrollment

Regular Dual Enrollment

- Students enroll in and attend classes at Lake Michigan College or Southwestern Michigan College.
- Buchanan High School pays all tuition and most fees for the cost of the program.
- Buchanan High School pays for all required books for all classes.
- Buchanan provides transportation to the LMC Bertrand campus only on weekday mornings. Transportation to the SMC Niles campus is provided only on weekday afternoons. All other transportation is the responsibility of the student/family.
- The college course(s) taken by the high school student must meet the following criteria:
 - must be academic in nature or applicable to career preparation,
 - must apply toward satisfaction of degree requirements,
 - may not be in the subject matter of hobby-craft, recreation, physical education, theology, divinity, or religious education.
- A maximum of two college courses (6 contact hours) may be taken each semester.
- College courses may be taken during the school day, in the evening or on weekends.
- A student enrolled in one college course will be given two periods per day to attend the course, i.e. two periods of “Dual Enrollment” will be provided in the student’s schedule and the student is not expected to be in attendance at BHS in those hours.
- A student enrolled in two college courses will be given three periods per day to attend the course, i.e. three periods of “Dual Enrollment” will be provided in the student’s schedule and the student is not expected to be in attendance at BHS in those hours.
- The student can choose to apply the credit earned only to the college transcript OR to both the college and high school transcript.
- When college courses are applied to the high school transcript, students earn a full credit for each semester course and grades received are weighted.
- College courses may be used to satisfy MMC requirements with prior approval of the BHS Guidance Office and Principal.

Early College Academy

- Same information as applies to Regular Dual Enrollment with the following exceptions:
- Students must be accepted into the program following the interview process.
- Students whose applications are accepted are interviewed by a panel.
- Students complete an application which includes a personal statement, principal recommendation, counselor recommendation and minimum one teacher recommendation
- Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Students must be invited to apply for admission
- This program is solely available at LMC.
- A maximum of 14 contact hours (generally 3-4 courses) may be taken each semester.
- College courses may be taken during the school day, in the evening or on weekends.
- Students will be given four high school periods per day to attend college courses.
- Students must be enrolled in one high school course, but are permitted to enroll in up to three.

- Students may attend LMC in the summer months at their own expense in order to complete an Associate's degree while still in high school.
- Transportation is provided to the LMC Bertrand campus during weekday mornings only.
- Students can select Early College Academy when scheduling courses for the following year.

Early/Middle College/5th Year Program

This is a county-run program rather than a Buchanan High School program. Information pertaining to the 5th Year or Early/Middle College Program can be found at <https://www.berriencte.org/5th-year-emc/>.

Career/Technical Education

Career/Technical Education is a county-wide program sharing initiative that gives students in the county to take advantage of specialized career-based resources and instructors at districts outside of their home high school. CTE courses taken off campus run for 3 hours of a BHS student's schedule, and include several benefits that go beyond the typical high school class.

- In-demand career experience
- Industry recognized certifications when the class is completed
- Curriculum flexibility - CTE can serve as a student's VPAA credit, Spanish 2, Science Elective, or Senior Math credit.
- Some CTE programs also provide college credits through Lake Michigan College or Southwestern Michigan College.

More information on what programs are available off-campus can be found at <https://www.berriencte.org/pathways/>.

Popular off-campus options over the last couple of years include: Welding, Agriscience, Criminology, Construction Trades, Allied Health, Professional Health Careers Academy (application deadline in early March), EMT, and Firefighter.