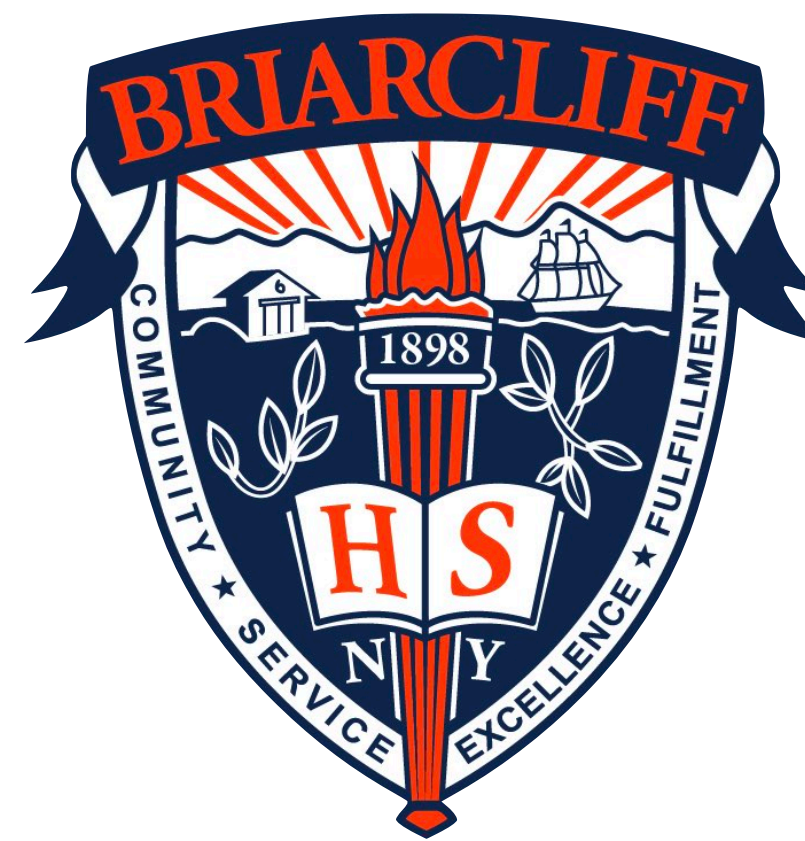


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# BRIARCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL



## CONVERSATIONS WITH COUNSELORS

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**COURSE SELECTION  
&  
STANDARDIZED TESTING**

**JANUARY 23, 2026**

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# COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS

If your child's last name begins with...			Their counselor is:
Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	
A-D	A-G	A-D	Mr. Michael Muranelli
E-L	H-M	E-K	Ms. Amanda Alayo
M-R	N-R	L-Q	Ms. Jeanine Isabella
S-Z	S-Z	R-Z	Ms. Meredith Safer

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# **THE COURSE SELECTION PROCESS**

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# TIMELINE

- **January:**

- **Teachers discuss course options for next year**
  - **Science Research teachers visit the Biology classes to discuss the Science Research program requirements and commitments**
    - ▶ **Friday, January 30th - 2nd quarter grades and teacher course recommendations will be posted to the portal**
    - ▶ **Department specific Criteria Review applications (via Microsoft Forms) will be available on the BHS Counseling Center website.**
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# TIMELINE

- **February:**

- **Monday, February 2nd - Friday, February 13th - Counselors will meet with each student for an individual course selection meeting**
  - ▶ **Your child must meet with their counselor before the February break! They will receive a Microsoft Bookings link to schedule an appointment with their counselor.**
- **Friday, February 27th at 3:00pm: Criteria Review applications are due; late submissions will not be accepted.**

- **April: Criteria Review decisions will be posted to the portal.**

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# TIMELINE

- **June:**

- **Preliminary student schedules will be posted to the portal in late June. Criteria Review decisions and course placement changes will be reflected on this schedule. This schedule does not include periods or teachers, it will only list the courses you have been successfully scheduled for.**
- **Counselors will be available for a few days at the end of June to address schedule concerns**

- **July-August:**

- **Final student schedules will be posted to the portal in late July**
  - **Counselors will be available for a few days in July and August to address schedule concerns**
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# PREREQUISITE GUIDELINES CHART

**Unless otherwise noted, the below criteria will be used to determine successful completion of a course**

<b>Current Course Placement</b>	<b>Course Requested</b>	<b>Grade Needed for Entry</b>
Regents/Non Honors	Honors	90 in prerequisite course
Regents/Non Honors	UHS, ECE, and SUPA course	90 in prerequisite course
Regents/Non Honors	Advanced Placement	94 in prerequisite course
Honors	Honors	85 in prerequisite course
Honors	UHS, ECE, and SUPA course	85 in prerequisite course
Honors	Advanced Placement	90 in prerequisite course
UHS, ECE, and SUPA course	UHS, ECE, and SUPA course	85 in prerequisite course
UHS, ECE, and SUPA course	Advanced Placement	90 in prerequisite course
Advanced Placement	Advanced Placement	85 in prerequisite course

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# CRITERIA REVIEW

- **What is it?**

**An appeal process**

- **Who is on the Criteria Review committee?**

**Department teachers, school counselors, and administrators**

- **When will I know if I have been accepted?**

**Preliminary results will be posted to the portal in April**

- **Course placement will be reviewed/confirmed/updated at the end of the year — after 4th quarter and final grades are calculated**

- **Why did my friend with the same average as me in \_\_\_\_\_ get into \_\_\_\_\_ and I did not?**



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## **ELECTIVES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS GRADES 9-12**

- **College Introduction to Film & Digital Editing**
- **College Introduction to Theater**
- **College Write Out Loud**
- **Concert Band, Chorus, Orchestra (grades 9/10), College Band\*, Chorus\*, Orchestra\* (grades 11/12)**
- **College Music Theory I**
- **AP Music Theory\***
- **Foundations of Studio in Art**
- **Drawing & Painting I\***
- **College Introduction to Dance (grades 9/10)\*\* , College Choreography & Performance (grades 11/12)\*\* - .5 credit**
- **College Sports Management\*\* - .5 credit**
- **Fitness Through Strength Training & Conditioning\*\* - .5 credit**
- **Introduction to Programming - .5 credit**
- **AP Computer Science A\***
- **AP Computer Science Principles\***
- **Introduction to Engineering & Design\***
- **Student Help Desk Technician - .5 credit**

\*Entrance into these courses requires permission of instructor if prerequisite course is not taken.

\*\*If course is taken *in lieu of* Physical Education, the grade will not be calculated into the student's GPA. If the course is taken *in addition to* Physical Education, the grade will be calculated into the student's GPA.

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# **ELECTIVES NEWLY AVAILABLE TO SOPHOMORES**

- **AP Capstone Seminar**
- **College Multicultural Literature**
- **College Introduction to Classism, Racism & Sexism**
- **Reel History**
- **College Science Research**
- **Ceramics: Creativity in Clay**
- **Darkroom Photography**
- **Digital Art & Design (.5 credit)**
- **Digital Photography (.5 credit)**
- **Drawing & Painting I\***

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\*Entrance into this course requires permission of instructor if prerequisite course is not taken.

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# ELECTIVES NEWLY AVAILABLE TO JUNIORS & SENIORS

- **Juniors:**

- **College Introduction to Psychology (.5 credit)**
- **College Introduction to Sociology (.5 credit)**
- **College Personal Finance**

- **Seniors:**

- **College Forensic Science**
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# **STANDARDIZED TESTING**

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# PSAT

- **This is a practice test for the SAT**
  - **It is offered to 10th and 11th graders on a Wednesday in October**
    - **Should your child take it in 10th grade?**
    - **Scores are released in mid-November**
      - ▶ **The comprehensive score report provides students with a detailed analysis of strengths and topics that students should focus on for future tests**
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# SAT VS ACT

	<b>SAT (digital, only)</b>	<b>ACT (by paper and pencil or online)</b>
<b>Total Time</b>	2 hours and 14 minutes	2 hours and 5 minutes
<b>Test Sections</b>	Math: 200-800 English: 200-800	English: 1-36 Mathematics 1-36 Reading 1-36
<b>Total Score</b>	400-1600 The 2 sections are <b>added together</b> for the total score	1-36 The 3 sections are <b>averaged together</b> for the composite score, rounded to the nearest whole number
<b>Optional Sections</b>	No optional essay	Optional writing section (+40 minutes) Optional Science section (+40 minutes)
<b>Months Offered</b>	March, May, June, August, September, October, November, December	February, April, June, July*, September, October, December

\*No test centers are scheduled in New York for this test date - Will be administered in Connecticut and New Jersey.

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# TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

- **If your child receives testing accommodations for classroom tests/Regents exams, they **do not** automatically receive those accommodations for standardized tests.**
    - **PSAT/SAT/AP: Your counselor may apply for your child to receive accommodations for College Board exams (PSAT, SAT, and AP) at any time. We typically do this at the end of 9th grade. Check with your counselor if you have questions.**
    - **ACT: The student must first register for an ACT administration and indicate special testing/accommodations are needed (forward the confirmation email to your counselor), then your counselor can apply for your child to receive accommodations on the ACT.**
  - **College Board and ACT are two different companies with two separate processes for applying for accommodations and they can yield different results. **The application review may take up to 8 weeks.****
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# SCORES AND COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- **Are standardized tests required? Not for all colleges - [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)**
  - **If a college requires standardized tests, they will accept either the SAT or the ACT, there is no preference for one exam**
  - **Submitting scores to colleges:**
    - **Score choice: Allows students to submit only their best testing administration(s)**
    - **Super score: Allows students to send all of their scores and the college *may* consider only the highest section scores across multiple test dates**
    - **Self report: Students may be able to report their scores on the Common App. Some schools may require official score reports from College Board/ACT - **It is the student's responsibility to send scores****
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# TEST OPTIONAL

- **Most colleges have continued with their test optional policies**
  - **Merit scholarship consideration usually does not factor in test scores if the school is test optional**
  - **Yes... schools are really test optional... but what does this mean?**
    - **A greater emphasis is put on the rest of the application: transcript, essay, extracurriculars, recommendations, etc...**
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# HOW DO I KNOW...

- **If my child should take the test?**
    - **We recommend all students take one exam to keep options open**
  - **How many times should my child take the test?**
    - **2 times is a good number - if your child is unhappy after the 2nd score and believes they can do better, they can take it a 3rd time**
  - **Which test should my child take?**
    - **Try a practice test to see which they do better on**
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# TEST PREP

- **Khan Academy** and **Bluebook** are great **FREE** resources for test prep
  - **Khan Academy** is offered through **College Board** - this platform has **SAT prep**
  - **Students can take practice tests in the Bluebook app**



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# IMPORTANT RESOURCES

- All BHS communications:
    - Click **“HS Email Communications”** tab
  - Counseling Center Webpage:
    - **Counseling Communications tab**
    - **Counseling Presentations tab**
    - **Course Selection tab**
    - **Graduation Requirements tab**
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# CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Ms. Amanda Alayo - [aalayo@briarcliffschools.org](mailto:aalayo@briarcliffschools.org)/914-488-8399**
  - **Ms. Jeanine Isabella - [jisabella@briarcliffschools.org](mailto:jisabella@briarcliffschools.org)/914-488-8727**
  - **Mr. Michael Muranelli - [mmuranelli@briarcliffschools.org](mailto:mmuranelli@briarcliffschools.org)/914-488-8227**
  - **Ms. Meredith Safer - [msafer@briarcliffschools.org](mailto:msafer@briarcliffschools.org)/914-488-8228**
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**QUESTIONS?**

***BRIARCLIFF***  
**H I G H S C H O O L**

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