
BRIARCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL



CLASS OF 2030

WELCOME TO BRIARCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL



Belonging

Excellence

Acceptance

Respect

Service

FEBRUARY 4 & 6, 2026

WHO IS YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR?

If your last name begins with...	Your counselor is:
A-C	Mr. Muranelli
D-J	Ms. Alayo
K-Q	Ms. Isabella
R-Z	Ms. Safer

TIMELINE

- **February 4th and 6th: 8th grade orientation with high school counselors**
 - **February 11th: Evening parent orientation via Zoom**
 - **Mid-February: Teacher recommendations posted to the student portal**
 - **End of February-March 4th: Ms. Piersons will work with students during Advisory to complete course selection sheets**
 - **March 4th: Deadline to turn in course selection sheets and Criteria Review applications to Ms. Piersons**
 - **Mid-March: Criteria Review**
 - **Late-April/Early May: Criteria Review follow up**
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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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FRESHMAN ORIENTATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **February 4th & 6th**
 - **Introduction to your high school counselor**
 - **Overview of the high school course selection process**
 - **Tour of the high school**
 - **September, 2026**
 - **New Student Orientation Day: First day of school, 1/2 day program**
 - **October, 2026**
 - **Freshman Orientation follow up: 1/2 day program**
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SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS

- **Wellness Center: A quiet therapeutic space where students can go to de-stress and connect with additional supports, if needed**
 - **Social Skills group: Weekly meetings focus on interpersonal skills, strategies to de-stress, tolerance, and emotional regulation**
 - **Individual counseling services for students with educational plans as well as “drop-in” students**
 - **Classroom guidance lessons: course selection, career exploration, college search/application process**
 - **Student Assistance Counselor: Provides substance use education, prevention, and intervention services**
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9TH GRADE COURSE PLACEMENT

- **8th grade teachers make course recommendations for students based on current performance in class**
- **In the event a student is not recommended for a course they are interested in taking, they may apply through Criteria Review**
 - **Please reach out to Ms. Piersons for the Criteria Review application which is available through Microsoft Forms**



CRITERIA REVIEW

- **What is it?**

An appeal process

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

8th grade teachers, MS and HS counselors, and MS and HS 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?**

HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS

- **How do you earn a high school credit?**
- **How many credits do you need to graduate from high school?**

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- **What is a transcript?**
 - **Which middle school courses appear on the high school transcript?**
 - ▶ **French I**
 - ▶ **Spanish I**
 - ▶ **Algebra I R/Algebra I H**
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THE CORE SUBJECTS

- **English 9: English 9 R, English 9 RC**
 - **Social Studies: Global History & Geography I R, Global History & Geography I RC, Global History & Geography I H**
 - **Math: Algebra I A, Algebra I R, Geometry R, Geometry H**
 - **Science: Life Science/Biology A, Life Science/Biology B, Life Science/Biology R, Life Science/Biology H**
 - **World Languages: French, Latin, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish**
 - **Physical Education: Physical Education 9, Fitness Through Strength Training & Conditioning, College Introduction to Dance, College Sports Management**
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Briarcliff High School Daily Schedule

Period 1
8:35-9:17

Period 2
9:20-10:03

Period 3
10:06-10:48

Period 4
10:51-11:33

Period 5A
Class: 11:36-12:18
CLEAR: 12:18-12:48

Period 5B
Class: 12:03-12:45
CLEAR: 11:33-12:03

Period 6
12:48-1:30

Period 7
1:33-2:15

Period 8
2:18-3:00

42 minute class and 30 minute CLEAR period
Collaboration, Lunch, Extra Help, Academic Support and Recreation
CLEAR A: 12:18-12:48 **CLEAR B:** 11:33-12:03

General Dismissal Bus Departure: 3:05 PM
Activities Bus Departure: 3:45 PM

SAMPLE HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

PERIOD	SAMPLE STUDENT'S SCHEDULE
1	Algebra I R
2	English 9 R
3	Life Science/Biology R class
4	Biology R lab (days 2, 4, 6) / Physical Education (days 1, 3, 5, 7, 9) / Study Hall (days 8, 0)
5A	Concert Chorus 9
	CLEAR: Collaboration, Lunch, Extra Help, Academic Support, Recreation
6	Global History & Geography I H
7	Study Hall (or elective course)
8	Spanish II

What if this student wants to take College Introduction to Theater?

ELECTIVES FOR FRESHMEN

- **College Introduction to Film & Digital Editing**
- **College Introduction to Theater**
- **College Write Out Loud**
- **Concert Band, Chorus, Orchestra**
- **College Music Theory I**
- **AP Music Theory***
- **Foundations of Studio in Art**
- **Drawing & Painting I***
- **College Introduction to Dance** - .5 credit**
- **College Sports Management** - .5 credit**
- **Fitness Through Strength Training & Conditioning** - .5 credit**
- **Health & Wellness, in-class - .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 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.

STUDY HALL EXPECTATIONS

Study Hall periods are in a student's schedule whenever they do not have an academic or elective class. Study Halls are quiet classes with an academic teacher and can be used to do the following:

- Get homework done, study, read**
 - See teachers, if they are available during that period**
 - Visit the Math Lab or Writing Lab for support**
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(**C**ollaboration, **L**unch, **E**xtra Help, **A**cademic Support, and **R**ecreation)

CLEAR RESPONSIBILITIES

- **After eating lunch in the Cafeteria, students may:**
 - **Remain in the Cafeteria**
 - **Go to the CLIFF and study/work quietly or meet with teachers**
 - **Visit the Math Lab or Writing Lab for academic support**
 - **A list of teacher absences is posted throughout the building**
 - **Students report to substation for attendance and to complete assigned work**
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ATHLETICS IN THE SUMMER

- **JV and Varsity fall sports (including football) begin in mid-August**
 - **Freshmen can play modified football, scheduled to begin in September**
 - **Please note: JV and Varsity sports are a 5-6 day/week commitment**
 - **If you have any further questions, the Briarcliff Athletic website is updated**
 - **Information regarding health forms, including deadline dates to participate in interscholastic athletics, will be available on the High School Health Office website**
 - **Registration and health forms must be done ahead of time, do not wait until the season begins**
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COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION

- [Counseling Center Webpage](#)
 - **Counseling Presentations tab**
 - **Course Selection tab**
 - **Graduation Requirements tab**



QUESTIONS?

BRIARCLIFF
H I G H S C H O O L
