
BRIARCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL



CLASS OF 2030

INCOMING 9TH GRADE PARENT ORIENTATION

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

TONIGHT YOU WILL BE HEARING FROM

Ms. Diana Blank, Principal

Mr. Daniel Goldberg, Assistant Principal

Mr. Christos Drosopoulos, Athletic Director

Ms. Erin Ryan, Supervisor of School Counseling & Student Services

Ms. Amanda Alayo, School Counselor

Ms. Jeanine Isabella, School Counselor

Mr. Michael Muranelli, School Counselor

Ms. Meredith Safer, School Counselor

WHO IS YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR?

If your child's last name begins with...	Your counselor is:
A-C	Mr. Michael Muranelli
D-J	Ms. Amanda Alayo
K-Q	Ms. Jeanine Isabella
R-Z	Ms. Meredith Safer

FRESHMAN ORIENTATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

September, 2026	October, 2026	Throughout the year:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● New Student Orientation Day: First day of school, 1/2 day program<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tour of the building- Club Fair- Orientation to Student Support Services- Academic Integrity workshop- Film Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Freshman Orientation follow up: PSAT day, 1/2 day program<ul style="list-style-type: none">- NYS mandated CPR instruction- Community Service Fair- Emergency Preparedness- 4-Year-Plan introduction- The Power of Play workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Individual meetings with counselor:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fall Semester<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Personal introduction▶ 4-Year-Plan- Spring Semester<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Course selection meeting- Drop ins, as needed

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: Regular group sessions to help students focus on interpersonal skills, strategies to de-stress, and emotional regulation**
 - **Individual counseling services for students with educational plans as well as drop-in students**
 - **BHS Social Worker pushes in to all 9th grade Biology classes to facilitate Mindful Schools lessons**
 - **Classroom guidance lessons: course selection, career exploration, college search/application process, college essay**
 - **Student Assistance Counselor: Provides substance use education, prevention, and intervention services**
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9TH GRADE COURSE PLACEMENT

- **Teachers make course recommendations for students based on current performance in class**
 - **The Course Description Guide outlines the prerequisite guidelines for each course**
 - **When selecting courses, consider courses that are necessary to satisfy graduation requirements and explore the student's interest**
 - **In the event a student is not recommended for a course they are interested in taking, they may apply through Criteria Review**
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CRITERIA REVIEW

- **What is it?** **An appeal process, applications are submitted through Microsoft Forms**
 - **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?** **Applications are due in March, 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's child with the same average as my child in _____ get into _____ and my child did not?**
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9TH GRADE COURSE PLACEMENT

● 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 your child has 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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IF YOU NEED HELP WITH COURSE SELECTION...

- **If you have questions regarding course recommendations or course placement, consult with the subject area teacher and/or current school counselor**
 - **To arrange an individual meeting with your future high school counselor, please contact Mr. Ratliff in the Counseling Office:
mratliff@briarcliffschools.org / 914-488-8207**
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HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS

- **Which middle school courses will appear on the high school transcript?**
 - **French I**
 - **Spanish I**
 - **Algebra I R/Algebra I H**
 - **Earth & Space Sciences**



THE CORE SUBJECTS - 9TH GRADE

- **English: English 9 R, English 9 RC**
 - **Social Studies: Global History & Geography I R, Global History & Geography I RC, Global History & Geography I H**
 - **Mathematics: 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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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 the 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

Study Hall periods are in a student's schedule whenever they do not have an academic or elective class. They can be very helpful with the transition from middle school to high school. 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 academic support**
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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 Sciences/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 Introduction to Engineering & Design?

COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES

- **BHS college level courses are accredited through SUNY Albany UAlbany in the High School (UHS), SUNY WCC Early College Experience (ECE), and Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA)**
 - **The classes are taught by BHS teachers who have been approved by the college/university to teach. The teacher is an adjunct professor for the college**
 - **Families may choose to pay for the college credit, at a very reduced rate**
 - **Students can take the course and earn high school credit even if they do not pay for the college credit**
 - **The course will have the 1.10 weight whether or not the family pays for the college credit**
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COURSE WEIGHTS EXAMPLE

- **Regents - If a student is taking Biology R and has a 90 cumulative average at the end of the year, a 90 will be reflected in the student's GPA**
 - **Honors - If a student is taking Biology H and has a 90 cumulative average at the end of the year, a 94.5 will be reflected in the student's GPA**
 - **College/AP - If a student is taking College Introduction to Theater and has a 90 cumulative average at the end of the year, a 99 will be reflected in the student's GPA**
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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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SUB STATION

ATHLETICS IN THE SUMMER

- **JV and Varsity fall sports begin in August**
 - **Tentative start date for Varsity football - 8/17**
 - **Tentative start date for all other Varsity and JV sports - 8/24**
 - **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 up to date**
 - **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**
 - **Please notify the athletic office and/or athletic trainer regarding impact testing and clearance**
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CONVERSATIONS WITH COUNSELORS

The BHS counselors are hosting a **Conversations with Counselors** follow up to this presentation on **Friday, February 27th at 9:30am** in the high school amphitheater

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
