Bellingham High School

2020 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225
Main: 360-676-6575 Counseling: 360-676-6470, Ext. 7116
bellingham.bellinghamschools.org

PROFILE

Bellingham High School
CEEB code number
480-094

Administration
Principal Ben Goodwin
Asst. Principal Chris Carlson
Asst. Principal Nikki Lockhart
Activities/Athletics Coordinator
Chad Larsen

Counselors
Aimee Bachmeier
Jennifer Cowan
Valaree VanderMolen
Melody Wright

Superintendent
Dr. Greg Baker

Our School
First opened in 1936, *Bellingham High School* serves approximately 1,200 students in grades 9 to 12 and is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges.

The BHS Bayhawks live by three Collective Commitments:
- Take care of this place,
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect, and
- Do quality work.

Our goal is to provide students with engaging experiences and a place of belonging to prepare them for a fulfilling and productive life.

Athletics/Activities
Bellingham High offers a full-range of extracurricular activities. Athletic competition is within the Northwest 2A League.

Bellingham Public Schools
The district includes four high schools serving students in grades 9 to 12, four middle schools serving students in grades 6 to 8, and fourteen elementary schools serving students preschool to grade 5. BPS serves more than 11,000 students.

Community
Bellingham, Washington is located in the northwest corner of the state between Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia. Bellingham rests on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Lummi Nation and the Nooksack Tribe who have lived in the Salish Sea basin, throughout the San Juan Islands and in the North Cascades watershed since time immemorial.

Higher Education
Bellingham is home to three institutions of higher education: Western Washington University, a nationally recognized, comprehensive university, as well as Whatcom Community College and Bellingham Technical College that provide traditional two-year and certificate programs and vocational training.

BHS Academic Information
The school year is 180 days in length and is divided into two semesters. Up until 2025, the academic program is organized around an eight-period block schedule. Beginning 2026, BHS converted to a seven-period day schedule.

Seniors with six out of seven periods are considered at full-time status.

Grading
Grades are assigned according to the grading scale below with numerical equivalents listed on the official transcript.

Grading scale

A = 4.0
A- = 3.7
B+ = 3.3
B = 3.0
B- = 2.7
C+ = 2.3
C = 2.0
C- = 1.7
D+ = 1.3
D = 1.0
D- = Invalid

Grade point average is unweighted and includes all grades except the following grade ratings: P (Pass), I (Incomplete), NC (No Credit), W (Withdrew with no penalty).

Each semester-long course is granted 0.5 credit (A through D).

College-level grading
Grades for courses taken at college level (for example, Running Start) receive equivalent high school credit according to the following formula:
3 college quarter credits = .6 high school credit
4 college quarter credits = .8 high school credit
5 college quarter credits = 1.0 high school credit

Rank
Bellingham Public Schools eliminated class rank with the 2020-21 school year.

Bellingham High School (continued)

Graduation Requirements
To qualify for graduation, a student must earn 30 credits, pass 46 classes, and complete a High School and Beyond Plan. Students also choose a graduation pathway that aligns with their High School and Beyond Plan and post-high school goals. Passing state tests is one pathway to graduation.

Credits (30 total) to graduate
4.0 credits English
- English 101 (1 credit)
- English 201 (1 credit)
- Other (2 credits)

3.0 credits Mathematics
- Algebra 1 (1 credit)
- Geometry (1 credit)
- Algebra 11 (1 credit)

3.0 credits Science/Science Lab
3.0 credits Social Studies
- Social studies elective (1 credit)
- World History (1 credit)
- U.S. History (1 credit)
- Civics (0.5 credit)

1.5 credits Physical Education
0.5 credits Health
1.5 credits Career and Technical Education
2.0 credits Visual/Performing Arts
2.0 credits World Language
9.5 credits of electives

CTE Dual Credit
This Washington state program provides opportunities to enroll in high school courses that are articulated with community or technical college programs to earn both high school and college credit.

Advanced Placement Courses
AP Biology
AP Calculus AB
AP Chemistry
AP Envi. Sci
AP Government
AP Human Geography
AP Lang/Comp
AP Lit/Comp
AP Micro/Macroeconomics
AP Music Theory
AP Physics
AP Psychology
AP Spanish
AP U.S. History

365 students took AP tests in the spring of 2024 and their scores, on average, met college credit requirements in nearly every subject.

Running Start
This program allows juniors and seniors to enroll in college classes and earn both high school and college credit at Bellingham Technical College, Northwest Indian College, Skagit Valley College, and Whatcom Community College.

Class of 2027
287 graduating seniors

Current Graduation Rates
4-year graduation rate: 85 %
5-year graduation rate: 95 %

College Entrance Rates
Attending 2-year college: 40 %
Attending 4-year college: 40 %

Recent colleges attended

Bellingham Technical College
Boise State University
California Polytechnic State University
California State University - Sacramento
Central Washington University
Cerritos College
College of Mount Saint Vincent
Denison University
Eastern Washington University
Fordham University
George Fox University
Georgia State University
Gonzaga University
Grand Canyon University-Traditional
Lasell University
Lewis & Clark College of Arts & Sciences
Linn-Benton Community College
Marquette University
Minneapolis College Of Art and Design
Montana State University - Bozeman
New Mexico State University-Main
New York University
Northwest University
Northwest Indian College
Oregon State University
Pacific Lutheran University
Pacific University
Portland State University
Pratt Institute
Saint Martin's University
San Diego State University
San Jacinto College
Scripps College
Seattle University
Seattle Pacific University
Skagit Valley College
South Seattle College
Stanford University
The Evergreen State College
University Of Alabama
University Of Arizona
University Of Dallas
University of Montana
University Of Nevada-Reno
University Of Oregon
University Of Portland
University of Puget Sound
University Of San Diego
University Of Utah
University Of Washington - Seattle
Utah State University
Warner Pacific University
Washington State University
Western Washington University
Whatcom Community College
Whitman College
Whitworth University
Willamette University
Yale University