

Belmont High School
2019 - 20 Program of Studies



School Committee Presentation
January 8, 2019

NEW COURSE PROPOSALS

- Physics Tutor
- 3D Art 2
- Digital Art 2
- Animation 2
- Improvisation for Actors
- Social Justice by the Numbers

Science

Physics Tutor

(p.35)

Description:

- This course is designed to support students who have demonstrated a need for additional instruction and practice in order to ensure success in their physics course. Students will not enroll in this course on their own. They will be placed in this course by the Director of Science based on the multiple factors from past performance. This is a required course. Student progress will be monitored throughout the year on an individual basis.

Intended Audience: 9

Type: 2 credit course (Full Year)

Rationale:

- Currently, support for students at risk of not passing Physics MCAS (graduation requirement) happens after school for part of the year.
- This course would be a more proactive, supportive approach
- Help students gain confidence their 9th grade year in science

Staffing/Budget Implications:

- 0.2 FTE to run this course

Visual & Performing Arts

Digital Art 2

(p.43)

Description:

- Digital Art 2 aims at the development of digital art skills and techniques with an emphasis on creating original artwork using technology. Students will explore more advanced techniques in digital art and graphic design, creating and manipulating digital images using technology such as the iPad, smartphones, Apple pencil, and apps. The class focuses on the elements of art and principles of design in composition and further study in graphic design visual literacy. Real world applications of graphic design will be explored by learning about career opportunities and practical applications of design concepts. Students will also work as an "in-house" design team, creating visuals for school events and programs.

Intended Audience: 10-12

Type: Full year; 5 credits

Prerequisite: Digital Art 1

Rationale:

- Course progression from Digital Art 1 begun in SY18-19

Staffing/Budget Implications:

- Neutral

Animation 2

(p.43)

Description:

- Animation 2 develops more advanced animation skills and techniques with an emphasis on traditional hand-drawn animation, character development, digital animation, and 3D Modeling. Students will use drawing techniques, photography, storytelling/storyboarding, and animation principles to create original, animated artwork. Real world applications of animation will be explored by learning about career opportunities and practical applications of animation and gaming.

Intended Audience: Grades 9-12

Type: Full year; 5 credits

Prerequisite: Animation 1

Rationale:

- Course progression from Animation 1 begun in SY18-19

Staffing/Budget Implications:

- Neutral

3D Art 2

(p.44)

Description:

- A continuing study of three dimensional art further develops skills and techniques used in ceramics and sculpture with a variety of materials including clay, wood, plaster, and wire. This level-two visual art course places a higher emphasis on technical development as well as conceptual artistry in student work.

Intended Audience: 10-12

Type: Full year course, 5 credits

Prerequisite: 3D Art 1

Rationale:

- Course progression from 3D Art 1 begun in SY18-19

Staffing/Budget Implications:

- Neutral

Improvisation for Actors

(p.49)

Description:

- An Acting Technique class, using improvisation as the basis for developing the actor's toolbox. The focus of this class will be on scene study and long-form dramatic improvisation, rather than "improv comedy." Emphasis on character development, listening/relationship building, focus & commitment, and developing the ability to capture a "sense of authenticity" as a performer in a scene. The scene material in the course will be student-generated through structured improvisation and developed during in-class rehearsal time.

Intended Audience: Grades 9-12

Type: 2.5 credits, semester course

Prerequisite: Acting 1

Rationale:

- Need for a versatile bridge course between Acting 1 and Advanced Acting

Staffing/Budget Implications:

- Neutral

Math & Social Studies

Social Justice by the Numbers (p.25/p.41)

Description:

- Interdisciplinary class with two teachers in the same room at the same time
- Uses mathematical reasoning and quantitative analysis to explore social justice issues in their community, country, and around the world
- Project-based to build global competency and engaged, critical, and compassionate members of our democracy
- Students will research and design a project that positively impacts a community
- Students will be able to take this class for either math or social studies credit

Social Justice by the Numbers

Intended Audience: Seniors

Type: Full year course, 5 credits

Prerequisite: None

Rationale:

- Research shows that integrated studies are one of the most effective ways to help students understand their world and creatively problem solve to make that world a better place
- In 2012, NEASC highlighted the lack of interdisciplinary studies at BHS as negatively impacting our students
- Serves as a pilot for future possibilities for interdisciplinary opportunities for learning
- Allows teachers, administrators, and students to gather data and assess the model

Staffing/Budget Implications:

- .4 FTE to run this course for 40+ students

Additional Changes

Courses not offered in 2019-20:

- Advanced Grammar
- Public Speaking/Debate
- Introduction to Programming
- Algebra 2 Tutor
- Sports Medicine/CPR & First Aid
- The Mindful Marauders - Emerging Leaders
- Astronomy
- Facing History & Ourselves
- Western Classical Music
- World Music
- Dance
- Intro to Technical Theater & Design

Courses being removed from POS:

- Ceramics 2
- Ceramics 4H
- Sculpture 2H
- Freshman Women's Choir*
- Men's Chorale (H)*
- Women's Chorale (H)*

**Combining to form Concert Chorale 9-12*

Additional Changes (cont.)

Description/Name changes to current courses:

- **Advanced Algebra & Trig - Renaming to PreCalculus (CP) (p.21)**
- **Calculus Honors changes to course description (p.24)**
- **Music Appreciation 1 name changes to Music in Television and Film (p.48)**
- **Music Appreciation 2 name changes to Western Classical Music (p.48)**
- **Music Appreciation 3 name changes to American Popular Music (p.49)**
- **Music Appreciation 4 name changes to World Music (p.49)**
- **Freshman, Men's, & Women's Chorales consolidated into Concert Chorale (Honors) (p.46)**
- **Zoology of Aquatic & Terrestrial Animals description amended (p.32-33)**
- **Biology/Biology Honors descriptions updated (p.31-32)**
- **Introduction to Coding renamed to Introduction to Computer Science (p.34-35)**