

High School Course Selection and Other Basic Information (2018-2019)

1. **Credits:** Each class at BEHS has a credit value assigned to it based on whether it is a full year, half year, or quarter year class. A class with one full credit (1 credit) meets for the full year. A half credit class (.50 credit) meets for half the year and a quarter credit class (.25 credit) only meets for a quarter of the year.
 - 1 credit class = meets all year
 - ½ credit class = only meets ½ of the year
 - ¼ credit class = only meets ¼ quarter of the year

Note: Bristol Eastern is not on Trimesters like NEMS – they are on quarters, therefore you will receive report grades after each quarter of the year.

2. **Schedule:** Bristol Eastern uses a Block schedule with two days (A day and B day) with four periods each day. Each block period is 84 minutes long and classes meet every other day. Again, remember, academic classes usually meet every other day and are longer than the academic classes at Northeast MS. In the sample schedule below, you can see how quickly the 8 blocks fill up. Notice in the sample below, the blue shaded areas are where elective REQUESTS may be scheduled. Keep in mind, below is a sample schedule – the days and periods of classes will not necessarily be in the order below.

SAMPLE Schedule		
	A Day	B Day
1	English	Possible elective
2	Possible elective	History
3	Science	Possible elective
4	PE / Health	Math

Note: All students will automatically be pre-scheduled for their four academic classes as well as PE and Health. Those pre-scheduled classes total 4.75 credits (4 credits for four academic classes + 0.50 credit for PE + 0.25 credit for Health). Eighth graders should be focused on requesting ELECTIVE classes.

3. Elective Requests:

- Remember these are requests – some electives fill up and, at times, students will be enrolled in a second or third choice elective. These are called **Alternate** elective choices.
- **Alternate elective choices** will only be in your schedule if the initial requests are not scheduled. All students should select Alternates in case the first choice electives are full.
- **How many electives should you choose?** All eighth graders should plan to choose between **2 and 3 CREDITS** worth of electives. Remember to look at the credit value of an elective when selecting. It is helpful to think in terms of number of credits requested, NOT the number of actual elective classes requested.
- **Pre-Requisites** – Some electives have pre-requisites. That means that another class is required before you can take a class. The easiest example of this is that you must have

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taken Pottery 1 before you can take Pottery 2. Eighth graders may select both Pottery 1 and Pottery 2 for next year because they are both ½ year classes and Pottery 1 will run in the first half of the year and Pottery 2 in the second half of the year. The **Elective Course Descriptions** for freshmen document indicates pre-requisites in the course description. Keep in mind, if you want a class that has a pre-requisite, you must also select the pre-requisite class for your schedule.

- **Study Halls:** Any unscheduled time in your block schedule will be a study hall. Some students will request more elective credits and have very, very little study hall time in their schedule. Other students will opt for fewer electives so they can get some time in a study hall.

4. Process and Dates and DEADLINES:

- Classroom Lessons and information given by Mr. Carroll in January and February.
- BEHS counselors will visit Northeast in **February** to enter elective requests into Powerschool. Students will need to access Powerschool to request classes so they must know their portal usernames and passwords.
- Parents and students may access, review, edit, and change elective course requests in PowerSchool until **mid-March**. Portal usernames and passwords are required to access Powerschool. Once the portal closes it will not be possible to make any changes in Powerschool.
- Mr. Carroll will be available to review, give advice, and answer questions for students and parents throughout the entire course selection process.

5. Other Information:

- Visit the Guidance tab under School Life on the NEMS Website to access course selection documents and materials.
- Review Bristol graduation requirements on the *BEHS Course Selection Worksheet*.
- Students attending a high school other than Bristol Eastern or planning on moving should be sure to let Mr. Carroll know as soon as possible.
- Students typically will get their schedules from Bristol Eastern in the late May 2019.
- *Students may have schedules changed, or be placed in support classes, based on PPT meetings, Section 504 meetings, or data from grades/test scores, etc. These changes often will take the place of electives. Sometimes different elective choices must be made. These changes may occur at the end of this school year or over the summer.*