

BA Class Registration/College Opportunities Update March 15, 2024

High school class registration is due to Mr. Uphus by Friday, March 22. As part of that process, we held an informational parent meeting regarding college level opportunities offered to BA junior and senior students. Those opportunities include nine CIS and AP college level classes taught at BA (CIS=College in the Schools through the U of Minnesota; AP=Advanced Placement), and the option to enroll in college classes via Minnesota's Postsecondary Enrollment Opportunities (PSEO) program. All three programs provide students with the chance to earn college credits while in high school. AP and CIS classes are offered at BA; the PSEO program allows high school students to apply to and if admitted, to take courses at eligible post-secondary institutions at no charge. Most of BA's PSEO students are taking their classes online; PSEO classes count as elective credits for graduation purposes.

The Leadership Team appreciates the input provided by many parents regarding our current class registration policies. We have been and will continue to discuss maximizing desired academic opportunities for our students while also following our mission "to empower our students to achieve personal, spiritual, and academic excellence."

We have made a few registration updates for 2024-2025. Students may switch the sequencing of required classes (where academically appropriate) to take advantage of BA's college level options. While *Personal Finance* will remain a required course for all students, the course will no longer be required semester 2 of senior year but may be taken any time grades 10-12. The Class of 2025 may waive this class if necessary to allow for more advanced opportunities on their schedule. The study hall limitation is lifted and instead no more than four PSEO classes—generally only an option senior year—may be taken in a semester and only with counselor and principal approval. Generally speaking, PSEO classes should be chosen to take advantage of elective courses not offered at BA. In all these instances, students should work with Mr. Uphus to create a schedule that best meets their academic goals within the parameters listed above; exceptions must be approved by leadership. Parents are of course welcome to discuss their student's academic track with Mr. Uphus as well.

Finally, as is consistent with area public and private schools, Bethlehem Academy weights grades for CIS and AP college level classes taught at BA but not for PSEO classes. That policy will remain in place. PSEO classes taken by BA students currently count as elective credits for graduation requirements. All required classes necessary to earn a BA diploma must be taken at BA except in extenuating and unavoidable circumstances. With these guidelines in place, students still have the opportunity to earn up to a year and a half of college credits.

Looking ahead, we will continue to discuss all avenues by which we can strengthen our curriculum so that students may challenge themselves academically, including exploring additional College in the Schools classes, offering more CIS/AP options to count for required courses, and evaluation of the PSEO program.

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