**Sophomore Electives**

**ART ELECTIVES**

**Basic Art    (.5 cr. per semester)                                        Elective 8-12**

College Credit available

This course is designed as a beginning art class for students wishing to pursue upper level art courses as well as for those who wish to satisfy their Fine Arts requirements for graduation. In the first semester, section 1-A, students investigate a variety of creative assignments while learning about the elements of design, art history, art analysis and criticism.  The student will practice technical skills, find original solutions to problems and develop visual means of communication. Possible activities: a trip to the Buchanan Art Center, printmaking, fiber art, pencil renderings, linear perspective, architectural drawings, jewelry, book making, painting, matting and sculpture. In the second semester, section 1-B, students will apply the elements of design to the principles of design while furthering their creativity and technical skill though: painting, colored pencil, pencil renderings, figure drawing, ink technique, and found-object art. Students will briefly study Non-Western Art, Western Art, and Art Careers to wrap up the year.

**Ceramics    (.5 cr. per semester)                        Elective 9-12**

*Pre-requisite: C or better in Basic Art 1A and Basic Art 1B*

*May be repeated with Teacher approval.*

*Direct Credit Available*

Explore three-dimensional art making through clay. Students will experience both hand-built and wheel thrown techniques. Multiple means of formation, technique, and surface decoration will be covered. Art history, criticism, and aesthetics will be explored. Assignments could include functional bowls, cups, teapots, serving trays, cookie jars, bottles, vases, whistles, tiles, non-functional ware, mixing clay and glazes, and learning firing processes.

**2D Art    (.5 cr. per semester)                                     Elective 9-12**

*Pre-requisite: C or better in Basic Art 1A and Basic Art 1B*

*May be repeated with Teacher approval.*  
  
Further develop your creativity through observational studies and technical processes while continuing your skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and mixed media. We will explore various themes through this class. Possible experiences in: pencil, oil pastel, colored pencil, charcoal, crayons, calligraphy, illustration marker, tempera paint, watercolors, acrylics, mixed media, printmaking, book arts, fiber arts, art made from technology, murals, perspective, design, still-life, portraiture, animals, architecture, imaginative composition, cartooning, hand-made paper etc.

**Digital Photography (.5 cr.)                     Elective 9-12**

*Pre-requisite: C or better in Basic Art 1A and Basic Art 1B*

Requirement: Student must supply a digital camera able to share files (may be on a phone)

This course covers a brief history, culture and aesthetics of photography. Students will acquire knowledge of the camera and related equipment, photographic materials and processes. Students will work in black and white as well as color to achieve technical competence. The basics of photographic composition, lighting, color, landscapes, portraits, close-ups, and building a portfolio will be addressed. Students will write reports or present Power Point presentations on famous photographers. Students will use their own camera during the class to make creative compositions as well manipulate them through digital means to create artistic composition.

**BUSINESS ELECTIVES**

**Business Software Applications (1 credit)** **Elective 9-12**

This class will prepare students for the multimedia-rich workplace by teaching them multimedia concepts as well as business-standard software applications to complete projects and solve problems. Several software applications will be explored both on the PC and on the iPads to enrich and increase the tools available for students to use in all of their classes. Applications include Microsoft Imagine Academy, digital imaging, print publishing, audio and video production, Web publishing, presentations, and the changing business environment.

**ENGLISH ELECTIVES**

**Communications (.5 credit) Elective 10-12**

The Communications course is designed for students to better understand the nature of sending and receiving messages. Content will include reading, writing, speaking and listening as the four types of human communications. Students will study problem solving techniques and practice active listening as a tool for problem solving. The class will involve role-playing, analysis of communication exchanges and discussions. We will be studying various models of communications. Evaluation will be in the form of traditional tests and projects. The course will examine how the various media operates as well as how it influences our culture. The course will include multiple projects, learning games, independent reading and written analysis.

**Film Studies (.5 credits) ) Elective 10-12**

Storytelling is the most common way that we communicate to one another. Stories told with film have a tremendous influence on our attitudes and perceptions of the world around us. In fact, films may be one of the most powerful tools in modern culture for shaping values and conveying information. By viewing, studying, discussing, and writing about film, students develop and demonstrate skills in technological, cultural, and media literacy, as well as critical thinking and problem solving-skills that will serve them well in the real world. The main components of the course will include reading, writing, analysis, class discussion, and synthesis (making connections between self and society and between texts and society).

**Mythology/Fantasy (.5 credit/semester) Elective 10-12**

Mythology is an English elective that is broken up into two separate semesters. In the first semester Mythology covers a variety of fantasy based fictions such as Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings. In the second semester Mythology addresses the different origins of myth across a wide range of cultures. We will discuss Roman/Greek, Native Americans, Egyptian and Norse mythology. Students will be required to do group projects, discussion work, speeches, and written assessments. Prerequisite is passing English 9.

**MUSIC ELECTIVES**

**Band (1 credit) Elective 9-12**

**An audition is required for any student not currently in 7th Grade or HS Band**

The Buchanan High School Band will be a year-long course open to all students with experience on band instruments and will include all aspects of the band curriculum. The first nine weeks will be the marching band component of the class. Auditions for color guard and drum major are held in the spring for fall placements. The second nine weeks consist of preparation for the Holiday Concert. Second semester will be primarily concert preparation, except for the Blossomtime and Memorial Day parades. There are many additional activities associated with concert and marching seasons, for example: solo & ensemble festivals (district and state levels), MSBOA District 6 All-Star Band, WMU All-Star Band, Lakeland Conference Fine Arts Festival All-Star Band, and the Pit Ensemble for the musical. ***All performances are graded and required, as well as summer band camp which is typically held during the week that bridges July and August.***

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES**

**Wellness    (1 credit)**                                  **Required**

This course integrates the curriculums of Health and Fitness (required for graduation).  Wellness includes study in all aspects of health, including; “Covey 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens.”  Students will participate in lifetime physical activities and classroom activities.  The physical activities include: Tennis, Basketball, Volleyball, Softball, Soccer, and several other activities.  In the classroom, decision making techniques are used to help students make responsible choices.  Special attention is focused on mental health, substance abuse, nutrition, and sexually transmitted infections – HIV/AIDS.  Wellness is an activity centered curriculum.  Its goals are to orient students to high school, improve study skills, and to provide opportunities to develop their own interests, skills, and abilities.  Students will learn strategies for developing long and short term goals as well as for becoming positive, contributing members of school and community.

**Life Fitness  (1 credit)**    **Elective 9 –12**

Pre-requisite: Must complete Wellness prior to taking Life Fitness

Life fitness is designed to help individuals develop the cardiovascular endurance and muscular strength necessary to achieve healthy fitness levels.  Two days of the week will be devoted to strength training while one day a week focuses on conditioning or cardio-respiratory endurance to encourage participants to develop the self-discipline needed to improve their success in the class.  The remaining two days per week will be devoted to team sports and/or game activities.

**SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVE**

**Social & Political Issues (1 cr) Elective 9-12**

Social and Political Issues will examine and evaluate current dilemmas and newsworthy topics by drawing from a variety of media sources.  Students will research and debate current events in an attempt to better understand the complexity of today's society.  Students will become active participants through discussions, group work, oral presentations, and written reports.  This course changes daily to reflect the issues facing our nation and our world.

**Military History (.5 cr) Elective 10-12**

One of the cornerstones of World History is the way in which humans conduct conflicts against one another. The history of warfare mirrors the ebbs and flows of empires and civilization itself. It has dictated the terms of diplomacy, led to many major innovations, and prematurely ended the lives of tens of millions.

This course will examine the evolution and impact of armed conflict from the ancient times to the present. Students will research and analyze the causes of war, military theorists from Sun Tzu to Clausewitz, the social and cultural foundations of conflict, and the impact and evolution of leadership, technological evolution, tactics, and strategy.

**20th Century History: A History of Crisis (.5 cr.) Elective 10-12**

The twentieth century marked by humanity lurching from one cataclysmic event to another. This includes two world wars, global economic collapse, multiple genocides, the holocaust, near nuclear holocaust, and the violent death of well over 100 million people. This course will examine the historical conditions that resulted in such events and how they shape us today.

Topics of study will include the Great War, the Great Depression, the birth of Nihilism, the rise of Bolshevism and fascism, the Second World War, the Holocaust, and the origins of the Cold War.

**2016 Presidential Election (.5 cr.) Elective 9-12**

Students will study the events surrounding the 2016 Presidential Election. Emphasis is placed on current social and political issues surrounding the election. There will be a special focus on the electoral process as it relates to American democracy. Students will actively investigate the events and issues surrounding the election, participate in discussions, multimedia projects, debates, mock elections, and develop informed arguments using a variety of writing forms. In addition, the roles of political parties, the Electoral College, campaigns, public opinion, and the media will also be considered.

**First 100 Days of the Presidency (.5 cr.) Elective 9-12**

In continuing our focus on the election from first semester’s elective course, second semester will focus on the first 100 days of the presidency.. In this class we will continue our focus on current social and political issues with an emphasis as it relates to the President of the United States and Article II of the Constitution. Students will examine the various roles of the President. The course focuses mainly on the role of the President as it relates to current affairs, but there will also be a historical component that focuses on American President’s and their role in shaping American history. Students will debate current political and social issues, participate in class discussions, and develop informed arguments using a variety of writing forms and multimedia presentations. In addition, the roles of the media, public opinion, and the history of the President of the United States will be considered.

**TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES**

**Power Sports Technology (1 credit) Elective 9-10**

Students in this course will learn the fundamental operations of the 2 and 4 stroke engine which will include engine parts identification and function along with ignition and fuel system operation. Students will also learn how to maintain, diagnose and repair outdoor power and power sports equipment. The main part of this class is the study of the small gas engine which will include each student doing a tear down, inspection, measurement, and reassembly then making run a Briggs & Stratton engine. During the school year students will be allowed to bring in their own equipment and machines to work on such as lawn mowers, garden tractors, snow blowers, weed trimmers and leaf blowers, chainsaws, ATVs, snowmobiles, personal watercraft, motorcycles and outboard motors. This class is strongly recommended for anyone interested in a career in automotive, truck, heavy equipment or aviation service.

**Automotive Technology (1 credit) Elective 10-12**

The course of Automotive Technology is for the student who wants to learn is about automotive, truck and heavy equipment service and repair. Students will spend time studying the fundamentals of the automobile and doing hands-on work on cars and trucks in the auto shop. Students will work on vehicles doing oil changes, tire repairs, exhaust system repair, cooling system service, suspension service and other vehicle maintenance.

**WORLD LANGUAGE**

*\*\*In the State of Michigan, all students must complete two years of the same foreign language prior to graduating. These courses are listed as electives because BHS does not stipulate in which years you must complete the credits.*

**Spanish 1 (1 credit) Required 8 - 12**

First year students will learn to communicate in Spanish on a variety of topics including school and after school activities, foods and beverages, describing people, daily schedules, describing classes and locations, family, shopping, places and events and restaurants. They will be able to form complete sentences by applying numerous grammatical structures including subject pronouns, gustar with nouns and infinitives, definite and indefinite articles, noun-adjective agreement, the verb tener, regular present tense conjugations, the verb ir, possessive adjectives, comparatives, and stem-changing verbs. In addition, the students will gain knowledge and understanding of Spanish culture through various readings, art projects and discussions.

**Spanish 2 (1 credit) Required 9-12**

Pre-requisite: Spanish 1 Teacher Approval

Second year students will learn to communicate in Spanish on topics which include the house and household items, planning a party, maintaining health and parts of the body, sports, electronics and phone calls, daily routines and vacations. Students will be able to use grammatical structures such as ser and estar, ordinal numbers, irregular verbs in the present, affirmative tu commands, the verb jugar, saber and conocer, the preterite tense, negative words, irregular preterite verbs, pronouns and prepositions, reflexive verbs, present progressive, indirect object pronouns and demonstrative adjectives. In addition, students will gain greater cultural understanding through readings, discussions and various art projects.

**Spanish 3 H** **(1 credit) Elective 10-12**

Pre-requisite: Spanish 2 Teacher Approval

Third year students will learn to communicate in Spanish with greater ease on topics including travel, health, shopping, movies, careers and the environment. They will be able to communicate thoughts and ideas by applying numerous grammatical structures including the past tense, reflexive verbs, past participles, subjunctive mood and the future tense. In addition, the students will continue to gain knowledge and understanding of Spanish culture through various readings, art projects, discussions, and learning how to salsa dance.