

Welcome to 9th Grade Parent Orientation!

Tuesday, August 30th, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Ballard High School Auditorium

Program

Welcome and Introductory Comments	Mr. Keven Wynkoop, Principal
From a Student's Perspective	Link Crew Student Leaders
Helpful Hints from Parents	Joel Niemeyer, PTSA President
Information from School Counselors Overview of Packet – Helpful Hints	Sarah Bowman, School Counselor
Introduction of Support Staff	Admin Team and Support Staff

Please join us in the Foyer after the program. Staff will be available to answer any remaining questions you might have.

**Thank you for coming this evening,
and again, welcome to Ballard High School!**

We would appreciate your suggestions for how to improve this program. Please feel free to e-mail Katie Huguenin at kwhuguenin@seattleschools.org to share your feedback. Thank you!

BALLARD HIGH SCHOOL RESOURCES

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Principal:	Keven Wynkoop	(206) 252-1000	kswynkoop@seattleschools.org	
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Academic Intervention Specialist (HSPE/End of Course Exam Coordinator)	Lisa Coacher	(206) 252-1107	liscoacher@seattleschools.org	
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School Nurse	Annette Cologna	(206) 252-1007	alcologna@seattleschools.org	
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Registrar	Stephanie Waters	(206) 252-1105	smwaters@seattleschools.org	
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Proyecto Saber	Suanne Kauffman	(206) 252-1054	sjkauffman@seattleschools.org	
Lunchroom	Lan Dang	(206) 252-1134	ldang@seattleschools.org	
Custodians	Al Lowe	(206) 252-1133	alowe@seattleschools.org	
Security		(206) 252-1110		
Teen Health Center	TBD, Patient Service Coordinator Chelsea Clark, Mental Health Counselor Karen Boudour, Nurse Practitioner	(206) 784-2142 (206) 252-1149 (206) 784-9517		

High School YEARS

Working together for lifelong success

Short Clips

Science reading

Pre-reading can help high schoolers better understand their textbooks. Suggest that your teen check subject headings and column notes, review questions for each chapter, and look up vocabulary words in the glossary. Skimming and scanning this way will help her hone in on critical information and remember it later.

Finding family time

Whether your teens are freshmen or seniors, you probably see less of them than ever. Look for everyday ways to spend time together, such as running errands or sharing chores. Also, join in activities they enjoy, like listening to their favorite music.

Cell phone tip

Has your teenager ever left his cell phone behind or had the battery go dead while he's out? Store the cell phone numbers of his friends in your cell phone. That way, if your child's not answering, you can try getting in touch through his friends' phones.

Worth quoting

"Success consists of getting up just one more time than you fall."

Oliver Goldsmith

Just for fun



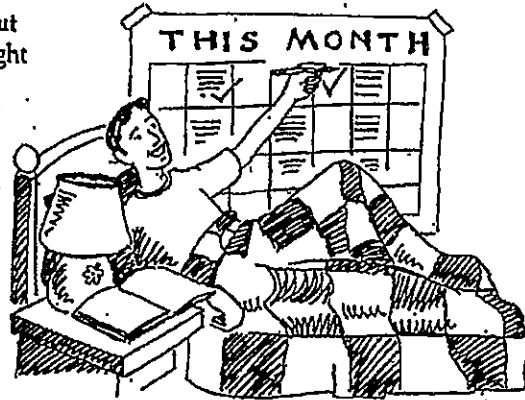
Parent: What will it take to get you out of bed this morning?

Teen: About 45 minutes.

Let's get organized!

John has a quiz tomorrow, but he can't find his notes. He thought they were in his backpack. If he doesn't find them, he'll probably get a bad grade.

It doesn't have to be this way. With a little effort, students can get organized. Keeping things together gives them more time to focus on homework, family, and hobbies. Share these methods with your teen.



Plan of attack

Discuss the upcoming month with your high schooler. What assignments are due? When will he do homework, chores, and extracurricular activities? Have him write everything down on a monthly calendar. The more advance notice he gives himself, the better prepared he will be.

Tools on hand

Suggest that your teen keep a different-colored notebook and folder for each subject. He can use notebooks for taking class notes and folders for storing returned homework and assignments. Also, have study supplies at home (dictionary, paper, pens, pencils, highlighters, and calculator). When it's time for homework, your high schooler will have everything he needs.

Nightly routine

Does your teen have trouble remembering what to take to school each day? Try having him put everything in one spot the night before. Or, he can make a list (homework, gym clothes, trumpet, etc.) to check before he goes to school. Preparing at night will make mornings go more smoothly. 🍷

Take your seat

Want a surefire way to help your teen get off to a super start this school year? Make sure she attends school every day with these tips:

- Show how learning relates to real life. If your teen thinks a skill is useful, she's more likely to learn it. Example: Planning a vacation draws on research skills.
- Tell your child not to skip a class because she's struggling. Offer to arrange for tutoring, or suggest that she find a study buddy.
- Find out your school's attendance policy.



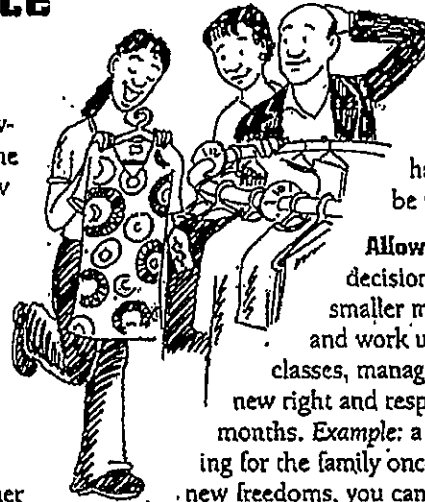
Guidance vs. independence

Finding the balance

One of the biggest challenges of parenting teens is knowing when to loosen the rules and when to tighten them. The payoff to striking the right balance? Helping your teen grow into an adult who's responsible and can make decisions. Try these suggestions for balancing freedom and control.

Decide which rules can't be compromised. For example, you can probably accept your high schooler deciding her own bedtime. But will you put up with her driving 20 miles over the speed limit? Set clear rules and consequences for those areas you won't budge on.

Negotiate flexible areas. Listen to your teen's input and pick rules you both can live with. *Example:* She can have her



girlfriends sleep over as long as they clean up any mess the next morning. Also, listen to her side of a situation. You don't always have to change your mind, but be willing to think it over.

Allow your teen to make more decisions as time goes by. Start with smaller matters (hairstyles, clothes) and work up to larger issues (choosing classes, managing money). Try granting a new right and responsibility every couple of months. *Example:* a later curfew along with cooking for the family once a month. If your teen abuses new freedoms, you can go back to stricter rules until she shows she can be trusted. ☺

Giving credit

When your child writes a paper, should he cite the source for a well-known fact? Or give the reference for a chart? Here are some tips your teen can use to be sure he doesn't commit plagiarism:

- Cite the source when using someone else's words, ideas, or art. Ask your teacher which citation style to use.



- Facts and statistics that aren't common knowledge need to be cited, too. To decide

if information is common, consider whether it's a well-known fact or can be found in several places. For example, "Drinking and driving leads to accidents" is an accepted fact, but statistics about accident rates should be credited.

- When paraphrasing, do more than rearrange words or sentences. Cover the paragraph and explain the ideas in your own words. Compare your version to the original. Use phrases like, "According to the Department of Agriculture," to reference the source. ☺

Parent to Parent No drugs!

My son Andy desperately wanted to attend a friend's party. I was worried about other teens there using drugs, so I decided we should talk.

First, I reminded him that I am against illegal drug use of any kind. Even drugs some high schoolers may think are "harmless," like marijuana, can damage a growing body and mind. I explained that getting high can also lead to dangerous behavior such as car wrecks, falls from windows, and sexual harassment.

Then, Andy and I talked about ways to say no. For instance, since he plays soccer, he could say using drugs would get him kicked off the team. He could also pretend not to hear an offer and walk away without responding. Andy seems relieved to have an "out" if pressured, and I feel better now that we've talked. ☺



Q & A On course for college

Q My daughter is just starting high school. How can we be sure she takes the right classes for college?

A Planning early and staying in touch with the school counselor will help ensure that your daughter takes the classes she needs. You could also check with a few colleges (call the admissions

office or visit their Web sites) for course requirements.

Different colleges have different standards. Generally, they like students to take four years of English; multiple courses in math, science, history, and foreign language; and a few classes in computers, PE, and the arts (drama, music, painting). More and more, colleges want to see students stretching themselves by taking higher-level courses, such as honors and advanced placement classes.



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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What Every Freshman Should Know



- Get involved (teams, clubs, academies, arts, etc.)
- Don't procrastinate
- We all get stressed, just don't dwell on it
- The middle stairs are **always** slow
- Keep good relationships with family members
- Don't slack off
- Don't be afraid to ask for help
- Get help from your TEACHERS after school
- Don't give in to peer pressure
- Be open minded
- If you fall...learn to laugh about it! We've all done it!
- Grades DO matter
- Learn how to manage your time right away
- Challenge yourself
- Skipping class is NOT worth it
- Attending parties doesn't mean you have to use
- Be yourself
- Be friendly
- Meet new people
- Get to know your counselor, teachers and staff
- Go to school activities
- Write down your locker combination☺
- Get **organized** and stay organized (Use a Planner!)
- Learn from your mistakes and move on
- Don't stop in the middle of the hallway to talk during passing periods
- Surround yourself with others who support you
- Don't let stereotypes influence you
- Work Hard – it will eventually pay off
- Meet your Principal
- Don't start or spread rumors
- The bathrooms by the Attendance Office are gender neutral. Be respectful!
- Don't be afraid of Upperclassmen
- Dress up for Spirit Days
- Don't do dumb things
- Have fun!

And Remember, It's Always Great To Be A Beaver!

How can you help your teenager succeed at BHS?

- * **Attendance is a priority.**
 - Make sure your son or daughter is getting to school every day on time and is ready for the day. If he or she is sick, they should bring an excuse note from you the day they return to school and turn the note in at the Attendance Office.

- * **Help your student create a system that will keep their homework organized and turned in on time.**
 - Your son or daughter will have homework on most nights. Encourage them to write their homework in a daily planner or calendar and ask them to check the Source and teachers' Schoology Pages to stay updated on what's due. You can also check The Source with your student to reinforce good study and planning habits.

- * **Make sure your son or daughter has a quiet place to study free from distractions such as the television.**

- * **Encourage your son or daughter to contact teachers directly if they have questions.**
 - Teacher e-mail addresses can be found on The Source.

- * **Encourage your son or daughter to utilize school resources such as the Counseling Center, the Teen Health Center, the Library, etc.**

- * **Encourage your son or daughter to get tutoring support if needed.**
 - Free tutoring is available Monday through Thursday in the BHS Library. Contact Diane Steen for more info (ddsteen@seattleschools.org).

- * **Get to know your son or daughter's friends and their parents or guardians.**

- * **Help your son or daughter get involved in school.**
 - Help him or her develop both academic and extracurricular interests. Encourage extracurricular activities, volunteer opportunities, and/or sports and clubs to help your teen get involved and find a passion that will help them enjoy high school. A list of clubs is available on our website at www.ballardhs.seattleschools.org under Activities.

The Source/PowerSchool/Schoology Pages

- * The Source/PowerSchool is a web resource that allows you and your student to monitor grades, view attendance records, e-mail teachers, and, in some cases, view upcoming assignments. In addition, many teachers maintain Schoology Pages that include homework assignments and readings.
 - To log in to The Source/PowerSchool and class Schoology Pages:
 - Go to the Ballard High School website: www.ballardhs.seattleschools.org
 - Click on "Student Portal" at the top of the home page. Follow the directions given to establish your account. Parents and students each have their own log-in and passwords so that each of you can access the Source on your own.

Ballard High School Graduation Requirements –Credit Checklist for the Class of 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

High School Courses Required	Completed 50 credits per course	Minimum for college (GADR/College Academic Distribution Requirements)	Additional High School Requirements	Comp
Occupational Ed			Service Learning – 60 hours required Students may fulfill up to 15 hours of their service learning graduation requirement during the summer between 8 th and 9 th grade as long as it meets the criteria set by the school. See BHS website for criteria.	
Occupational Ed				
Occupational Ed				
Fine Art		1 credit		
Fine Art		<i>Note: UC system requires 1.0 in a single medium.</i>		
Health			High School and Beyond Plan	
Intro to Lit & Comp 9A		4 credits	Math through Algebra 2B	
Intro to Lit & Comp 9B			PE Competency Test	
World Lit & Comp 10A			Cumulative GPA of 2.0	
World Lit & Comp 10B			Core GPA of 2.0 (Core classes are LA, Math, Science and Social Studies.)	
Am Lit & Comp 11A				
Am Lit & Comp 11B				
Comparative Lit/Comp 12A				
Comparative Lit/Comp 12B				
Math – Alg 1A or higher		3 credits plus Senior Year 3 years required through Algebra 2B plus one additional year of math-based quantitative course the senior year.	**STATE EXAM REQUIREMENTS**	
Math – Alg 1B or higher			Reading Test: HSPE or ELA SBAC	
Math – Geom 1A or higher			Writing Test: HSPE or ELA SBAC	
Math – Geom 1B or higher			Math: End of Course Exam (EOC) in Algebra OR Geometry; For Class of 2019 = Math SBAC	
Math – Alg 2A or higher			Science: Biology EOC	
Math – Alg 2B or higher			***Please note: State testing requirements may be changing. This reflects the current testing requirements. See your transcript for which tests have been met/not met.	
PE				
PE				
PE				
Science		2 credits of laboratory-based science are required. One credit must be in an algebra-based lab science course (as determined by the school district). The other credit must be in biology, chemistry or physics (this course may also meet the algebra-based requirement).	Note: WWU further specifies that one of the years of science credit earned must be chemistry, physics or algebra-based Principles of Technology.	
Science				
Science				
Science				
WA St History (grade 8)		3 credits		
WH 1				
WH 2				
WH 3				
US 11A				
US 11B				
American Gov				
Electives 4.5 credits (need 9 semesters of electives)		2-3 years of one world language *Courses listed are in addition to those required for graduation and meet minimum core course requirements for admission to a 4-year public college or university in Washington state. Students are encouraged to exceed these minimum requirements to be competitive in the admissions process. Many colleges may require additional courses. Students should contact each college of interest for specific admission requirements.		
21 credits total required for graduation		NCAA athletes: Make sure that you are choosing courses approved by NCAA Eligibility Center. To check which Ballard courses are approved, go to www.eligibilitycenter.org .		

MY TENTATIVE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

Name: _____

Class of 20_____

Today's date _____

FRESHMAN YEAR

	First Semester		Second Semester
50	Language Arts 9: <u>Intro to Lit & Comp</u> or <u>Intro to Lit & Comp H</u>	50	Language Arts 9: <u>Intro to Lit & Comp</u> or <u>Intro to Lit & Comp H</u>
40	Social Studies: <u>World History 1</u> or <u>W. History 1 H</u>	40	Social Studies: <u>World History 2</u> or <u>W. History 2 H</u>
30	Math: _____	30	Math: _____
20	Science: _____	20	Science: _____
10	Additional Course: _____	10	Additional Course: _____
0	Additional Course: _____	0	Additional Course: _____
	(*Health is a required one-semester 9 th grade course. If you are taking music or another year-long course as well as a world language, you may delay taking health until a later year if necessary.)		(6 credits possible per year; 3 credits per semester)

SOPHOMORE YEAR

First Semester	Second Semester
Language Arts 10: <u>World Lit and Comp</u> or <u>W Lit & Comp H</u>	Language Arts 10: <u>World Lit and Comp</u> or <u>W Lit & Comp H</u>
Social Studies: <u>World History 3</u> or <u>AP History</u>	Course (or AP History): _____
Math: _____	Math: _____
Science: _____	Science: _____
Course: (World Language?) _____	Course: (World Language?) _____
Course: (Occ Ed?) _____	Course: (Fine Art?): _____

JUNIOR YEAR

First Semester	Second Semester
Language Arts 11: <u>American Lit & Comp</u> or <u>AP Am Lit & Comp</u>	Language Arts 11: <u>American Lit & Comp</u> or <u>AP Am Lit & Comp</u>
Social Studies: <u>US History</u> or <u>AP US History</u>	Social Studies: <u>US History</u> or <u>AP US History</u>
Math: _____	Math: _____
Science: _____	Science: _____
Course: (World Language?) _____	Course: (World Language?) _____
Course: (Occ Ed?) _____	Course: (PE?) _____

SENIOR YEAR

First Semester	Second Semester
Language Arts 12: <u>Comparative Lit & Comp</u> or <u>AP Lang Arts</u>	Language Arts 12: <u>Comparative Lit & Comp</u> or <u>AP Lang Arts</u>
Social Studies: <u>American Govt & Econ</u> or <u>AP Am Govt & Econ</u>	Course (or AP Am Govt & Econ): _____
Math: _____	Math: _____
Science (?): _____	Science (?): _____
Course: (W Language or PE?) _____	Course: (W Language or PE?) _____
Course: (Occ Ed?) _____	Course: (Fine Art?): _____

Credits needed for graduation: 21

Credits this plan provides: _____

Frequently Asked Questions 2016 – updated 8/29/16

GENERAL

When is Freshman Orientation?

Thursday, September 1st! Students should arrive at the Main Gym at **8:00 a.m.** Activities will conclude by 12:00.

What should my student bring the first day of school on Wednesday, September 7th?

On the first day, students should bring several pencils and pens, paper on which they can take notes, and a peechee or other notebook with pocket dividers in which to collect class handouts. The student should also bring lunch or money for lunch on the first day. Throughout the day, teachers will instruct students if any materials are required for the class. For instance, some teachers require a Composition Book so all work is taped into the Composition Book to be turned in. Other teachers do not. Once your student receives this information from his/her teachers on the first day, then the student can gather the school supplies that they need and create an organizational system for homework. Help your student set up an organizational system so that they know exactly where to place completed work to be turned in, assignments to be completed each night, and how to put long-term projects onto their calendar or planner.

Do we need to buy a calculator?

All students in Algebra 1, Algebra 2, PreCalc, Statistics and higher math must have access to a graphing calculator. The standard calculators used in all classes at Ballard are the TI-83 and TI-84, from Texas Instruments. Geometry students are required to have a basic scientific calculator. If students are unable to purchase a calculator, there will be some available for checkout from their math teacher. Math teachers will give more information through their classrooms.

When will school pictures be taken?

September 8th and September 9th during the school day via the students' classes. Information on ordering picture packets was sent home in your summer mailing.

When can I meet my student's teachers?

Please attend Ballard High School's **Curriculum Night, Thursday September 29th at 6:30.** This is an open house during which you will follow your student's schedule, meet each teacher, and learn about each class.

How much does school lunch cost?

Lunch is \$3.25 and breakfast is \$2.25, unless your family qualifies for free/reduced lunch. Parents can send money with the student to deposit into their account or you can prepay on-line at www.seattleschools.org/meals or click on Nutrition Services for further information.

How do we sign up for free/reduced lunch?

A form was mailed to each home in August. You can also access this form on-line at www.seattleschools.org, click on Departments then Nutrition Services. Fill out this form and have the student return it to the school lunchroom. Students who were on free/reduced lunch last year in a Seattle public school must fill out a new form each year, but prior eligibility will be carried over for the first month of school. There are additional benefits available to students who qualify for F/R lunch, such as help with some school fees, so if you do qualify, it is good to submit the form even if the student does not plan to eat school breakfast or lunch.

Does my student have to buy an Activity Card and how much is it?

Students who wish to participate in a sport or music must purchase an Activity Card. Otherwise, the Activity Card is not required, but it is encouraged as this allows students to receive discounts on attending sporting events, buying their yearbooks, etc. The Activity Card is \$35. Activity Cards are sold in the Activity Center before school, during break, and during lunch.

Can we get help with other school fees?

Yes, if your family qualifies for free/reduced lunch. Please have your student see their school counselor for assistance with course fees, SAT/ACT testing, etc.

Can students leave campus at lunchtime?

Yes, 9th – 12th graders are allowed to leave campus for lunch, but keep in mind that they need to be back in time for their next class.

I hear there are two lunches. How does that work?

Due to our large student population, we have two lunch sessions: 1st lunch and 2nd lunch. It is based on the student's 4th period class. Students whose 4th period classroom is on the 1st floor have 2nd lunch, meaning they go to lunch after their 4th period class. Students whose 4th period classroom is on the 2nd floor have 1st lunch, meaning they go to lunch right after 3rd period.

What is the best way for me to keep up-to-date with information about school events?

First, sign up for the PTSA listserv. This is a great way to keep up-to-date and to receive the Daily Bulletin delivered right to your e-mail. This is the same Bulletin that students hear during the week, and it holds important information about deadlines and opportunities. To sign up for the listserv, e-mail ballardhighnews@gmail.com. Also, visit the Ballard High School website regularly at www.ballardhs.seattleschools.org. The BHS website also posts news, upcoming events, and the Daily Bulletin. In addition, the PTSA Beaver Beat is a publication e-mailed to your home every two months.

What are the general rules of the school?

All students will receive a Student/Parent/Guardian Handbook the first few weeks of school which outlines school policies and procedures.

Is there a dress code?

Detailed information will be listed in the Student/Parent/Guardian Handbook. In general, if there is a concern about decency or message t-shirts, the assistant principals will speak with the student about this concern and might ask them to change clothes or send them home.

Are cell phones or electronic devices allowed?

Students may carry cell phones/devices, but these must be out of sight and turned off during class time. Such devices can be confiscated if they are used or seen during class.

Does each student get a locker and when do they get one? Do they need to share? Whom does my student contact if they do not get a locker?

Lockers are distributed the morning of the first day of school when the student picks up his/her official schedule. Each 9th grader should be able to have a locker and not need to share. However, this sometimes takes a few weeks to settle out at the beginning of the year because we are adjusting our rolls to reflect students who have moved over the summer or who do not require a locker. If your student has not been assigned a locker by the second week of school, your student should check with custodian Mr. Al Lowe in the Commons regularly to see if a locker has opened up.

Can students drive to school?

Yes, but students cannot park in the staff parking lot by the tennis courts. They must park on the street.

If I have a question about transportation to school, such as bus passes, whom should I contact?

Call the Seattle School District transportation office at 252-0900. If you have a question more specific to Ballard High School, please call Liz Guillory.

PTSA (PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION)**When and where is the first PTSA meeting?**

The first general PTSA meeting is **Thursday, October 6th at 7pm** in the BHS Library.

If I want to get involved with PTSA right away or if I want to volunteer for school projects, whom should I contact?

Contact President Joel Niemeyer (BHS.PTSA.President@gmail.com) or Britta Bowman for volunteer opportunities (BHSVolunteer@hotmail.com).

Is there a fee to join PTSA?

Membership is \$10/person. People interested in joining can do so online at <http://www.ballardhighschoolptsa.org/> or contact membership chair **Kimball Mullins** at kimball_mullins@yahoo.com. There will also be a membership form sent home in the PTSA packet the first week of school. Scholarships are available.

Where can I find out about upcoming PTSA activities?

We encourage you to sign up for the PTSA's listserv which lists important announcements regarding PTSA, school activities and the Daily Bulletin. The Ballard PTSA also has a website: <http://www.ballardhighschoolptsa.org/>

How do I sign up for the PTSA listserv?

To sign up for the listserv, e-mail ballardhighnews@gmail.com.

Is there a parent newsletter?

Yes. The Ballard Beaver Beat will be emailed to your home approximately four times per year. This newsletter will include important dates and deadlines, as well as communication from the PTSA, the principal, and school staff.

What is the "PTSA Packet"?

The PTSA Packet is an envelope containing important forms and information which your student will bring home the first week of school. The packet will include such things as PTSA membership information, free/reduced lunch form, and various booster club/activities information. Please ask your student for this packet as it contains much valuable information.

CREDITS

How many credits are needed to graduate?

21 credits are required for the Class of 2020.

How much credit does each class earn?

.50 for one semester, so a student who takes 6 classes each semester can earn 3.0 credits per semester, to total 6 credits per year. Therefore, if students take a full schedule of six classes every year and pass all classes all four years, they would graduate with 24 credits.

How much credit is needed in each subject?

See the attached Graduation Checklist and High School and Beyond Plan. (*Please note that there may be some slight changes to the state testing requirements. These changes will be communicated to students once we are notified.) These documents also show minimum Washington college entrance requirements, but we encourage students to go beyond the minimums to help with college admission. Some private or out-of-state colleges also have differing admission requirements, so families should examine each specific college website to determine that college's entrance requirements.

What is a quarter and a semester?

A quarter is nine weeks. A semester is two quarters or an 18-week grading period. Semester grades are the final grades that are posted on the transcript. (Quarter grades are not posted on the transcript.) Some teachers average the 1st quarter and 2nd quarter grades to determine the semester grade; others determine the semester grade as a cumulative grade with the quarter being a progress report. Please check the teacher's syllabus to determine the grading system of that class. First semester ends January 31th.

If my student does not pass one of his/her classes, will summer school or credit retrieval be needed?

It depends on the course. If the course is a specific grade-level requirement, such as Intro to World Lit and Comp 9A, the student will need to make up that credit by taking a class outside of their regular schedule (after school, summer, etc). If the course is an elective or is one that can be repeated during day school, the student does not necessarily have to make up the course. Have your student see their school counselor to discuss credit retrieval options.

If my student doesn't pass several classes, will he/she be held back and have to repeat 9th grade?

The Seattle School District requires that students earn 5.0 credits if they are to move on to the 10th grade. This means that if a student fails more than one class per semester, the student would not have earned 5 credits and would need to make up that credit to achieve the 5 credits required to move on to the 10th grade. A student who does not achieve 5 credits will be noted as a 9th grader again on the computer, but will take tenth grade classes.

When do students learn about credits?

Counselors meet with all ninth graders to teach students about graduation requirements and to do a High School and Beyond Plan. We go over this information again each spring as students select classes for the following year. Students are encouraged to request a credit update at any time from their counselor.

What is the grading scale?

A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, E.

Does an E count in the gpa?

Yes. An E counts as zero points in the gpa average.

Do Honors and AP classes count for extra points?

Honors and AP classes receive points for the purpose of class rank only, but this does not affect the gpa.

Is a D a passing grade?

Yes, but the student must have attained a 2.0 or C gpa average by the time of graduation, so a student who earns a D will have to earn a B in a future class to average that out to at least a C average.

Where can I find information about course offerings and special academic programs?

Please see our Course Catalog. The Course Catalog is on our website at www.ballardhs.seattleschools.org under "Academics."

STATE TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION – CLASS OF 2020**SBAC – Smarter Balanced Assessment, End of Course Exams**

*****Important Note: The State may revise the testing requirements for the Class of 2020. We will release additional information to students and families as it is updated on the OSPI website:***

<http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/StateTesting/>

Which state tests does my student need to pass to graduate?

Under the current plan, students in the class of 2020 must pass the Smarter Balanced Assessment in English Language Arts and in Math as well as the Biology End of Course Exam. *****Please see Important Note above.***

When will my son or daughter take the SBAC and End of Course Exams?

Under the current plan, students will take the Smarter Balanced Assessment in English Language Arts and in Math the spring of their tenth grade year. They will take the Biology End of Course Exam in June during the year in which they are enrolled in Biology. This may be their 9th or 10th grade year. An overview of Ballard's Testing Schedule will be available in October, and can be found on the following BHS website link:

http://ballardhs.seattleschools.org/about/assessments_and_testing_information

*****Please see Important Note above.***

Whom can my student contact with questions about preparing for these state testing requirements?

Lisa Coacher, our Academic Intervention Specialist, supports parents/guardians, students, and staff with information about State Testing. She can be reached by calling (206) 252-1107 or emailing her at ljcoacher@seattleschools.org.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT**What are "The Source/PowerSchool" and "Schoology Pages" and how do I access them?**

The Source/PowerSchool is a progress report system on which teachers can choose to post grades and assignments for their students and parents to see. Students and parents can use the Source from home to monitor the student's attendance and completion of assignments. In addition, many teachers have created Schoology Pages for their classes which often hold updated class assignment information, materials, and messages to students and parents. The best way for students to access and/or create a login for the Source and Teacher Schoology Pages is through the Ballard High School website www.ballardhs.seattleschools.org and click on "Student Portal" at the top of the page.

How often should I check the Source?

Most teachers update the Source approximately every two weeks, but this is not required. You are welcomed to check as often as you feel necessary, but you may see most accurate data if you check the Source every two weeks. If you wish to monitor attendance closely, you can check the Source more frequently.

How should I help my student if he/she is struggling in a class?

The goal is to help your student learn problem-solving skills, to give them the confidence that they can solve their problems on their own in the future. First, talk with your student. Brainstorm with them what they could do to improve their performance, such as making good use of homework time at home, keeping a daily planner for assignments, and finding a quiet place for homework. Help your student set up an organizational system so that they know exactly where to place completed work to be turned in, assignments to be completed each night, and how to put long-term projects into their calendar or planner. Secondly, encourage your student to speak to the teacher to ask for assistance in figuring out why they are not doing well. The student should also seek tutoring either from the teacher or from another source. If the student tries these things and is still struggling, the parent may choose to e-mail the teacher to gain insight into what might be helpful. The student can also speak with their school counselor and the parent may choose to call the counselor for assistance.

How do I contact a teacher?

E-mail generally works best. E-mails can be accessed directly on The Source (just click on the teacher's e-mail) or on the Ballard website. If you do not have internet access, call the Main Office at 252-1000 and ask to be patched through to the teacher's voice mail.

How quickly should I expect a response from an e-mail or a voice mail to school staff?

Within three school days. Teachers are teaching most of their working day and so may not be able to return your e-mail until the following day or two. If you do not hear from a school staff member within this time, e-mail or phone again, and please feel free to contact the principal or assistant principal for assistance.

What tutoring resources are available?

Volunteer tutors will be available in the BHS library after school Monday through Thursday. This will be evaluated periodically to see if students are using this service or if it should be discontinued. Diane Steen is our volunteer tutoring coordinator who would be happy to help you via e-mail. Ms. Steen's e-mail is ddsteen@seattleschools.org. *The Greater Seattle Bureau of Fearless Ideas* located in Greenwood is another free tutoring resource: <http://fearlessideas.org/>

SERVICE LEARNING

What is Service Learning and how many hours are required for graduation?

Service Learning is volunteer work done by students on their own time for a non-profit agency or organization, preferably in an area of interest to the student. 60 hours of Service Learning are required by the time of graduation.

Do hours done the summer before 9th grade count?

Beginning with the Class of 2017, students may fulfill up to 15 hours of their service learning graduation requirement during the summer between 8th and 9th grade as long as it meets the criteria set by the school.

Are students required to do a certain number of hours per year or is it just the total of 60 that's required?

To assist students in planning and to help them not put off their hours until the last minute of senior year, our health classes (which most students take in 9th grade) require 20 hours of Service Learning as part of the class. In 10th grade, 20 more hours or a plan for what students plan to do are required via history classes. All documentation forms are turned in to the Counseling Center.

Is there anyone at school who can help my student find meaningful Service Learning opportunities?

Yes -- Grayce Mitchell is our Service Learning Coordinator. She is on campus two-three days per week. She meets with every ninth grader in health class to help them find options that suit their interests, and she also meets with upperclassmen throughout the year. She also maintains a Service Learning bulletin board outside the Counseling Office where she posts opportunities for Service Learning. The monthly list of service learning opportunities, along with the district's service learning documentation form, can also be found on the BHS website under the tab "services". (gamitchell@seattleschools.org)

ATTENDANCE

If my student is ill, what do I do to excuse the absence?

Send an e-mail or a note bearing your signature, phone number, reason for absence, and dates of absence with your student the first day they return to school. The student must turn in this note to the Attendance Office within three days if the absence is to be excused. Phone calls to the Attendance Office will not excuse an absence.

If my student will be ill for many days, how can I access homework?

The best way to access homework if your student is ill is to check the Schoology Pages and the Source, and/or e-mail the teachers directly. Also, encourage your student to contact a fellow student for the homework assignment.

Do students lose credit in a class for poor attendance?

Students may lose credit if they miss too many classroom participation points or if their absences are unexcused and therefore they cannot turn in make-up work for credit. Each teacher establishes their class participation policy, so check course syllabi for details. Per state law, students who are excessively truant, meaning 20 consecutive days of unexcused absence, are dropped from Ballard High School.

ATHLETICS

What does my student have to do if he/she wishes to play a sport?

Fill out the Sports Paperwork Packet available in the Main Office or on-line at www.ballardhs.seattleschools.org and turn in by the deadlines stated in the paperwork, including proof of insurance and physical. The ASB Activity Card and sport fees have to be paid at the time the paperwork is handed in. Paperwork will not be accepted without the fee payment. A current physical is required. Physicals are good for two years but physical information from middle schools does not follow a student to high school. Students either need an updated physical or a copy of a physical done within the last two years to hand in with their paperwork. The physical must have the date of the physical and say they are cleared to participate in sports. Students must also be academically eligible to participate in sports, including passing at least 5 full credit classes with at least a C average. Students should check with their coaches early and often to make sure they are meeting these eligibility requirements. Detailed information on all of these requirements is included in the Sports Paperwork Packet. More athletic information can be found at www.ballardathletics.org

If our family qualifies as low-income, can we get assistance for this fee?

Yes. If your family qualifies for free/reduced lunch, the fees are reduced. See your Sports Paperwork Packet for details.

Are there free sports physicals available?

Yes. The Ballard Teen Health Center in the Commons offers free sports physicals (and immunizations as well). Please call 784-2142 to schedule an appointment.

Whom should I contact with questions about sports paperwork or to get the contact number of a coach?

Please contact the Athletic Secretary at 252-1147.

HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

What is the Ballard Teen Health Center?

The Ballard Teen Health Center is located in the Commons and is a collaboration between Ballard High School, Public Health-Seattle/King County, and Swedish Medical Center. Staff includes a nurse practitioner, a mental-health counselor, and a patient-care coordinator. Students may be seen by appointment. Services are free. The THC is committed to helping adolescents achieve wellness and success in all aspects of life. An information sheet will be included in the First Day Packet and more information is available at www.ballardhs.seattleschools.org under "Services."

If I am concerned that my student may be depressed or need emotional counseling, whom should I contact?

Contact your family doctor for a possible referral. You can also contact the Teen Health Center, the school nurse or your student's school counselor.

If my student has a health-related problem such as a chronic illness, injury, or severe allergy which might affect my student at school, whom should I contact?

Annette Cologna, School Nurse,
alcologna@seattleschools.org

If I have a general concern but do not know whom to call, whom should I contact?

Please call the school counselor. We can help determine which person would best be able to help you.

If I am concerned that my student may be using drugs or alcohol, whom should I contact?

Please contact your family doctor for referrals so as to maximize insurance possibilities. You may also call the school nurse or the Teen Health Center for a referral list of local agencies that provide drug testing, counseling, and out-patient or in-patient referrals. We also have a chemical dependency counselor here once a week.

If I am concerned that my student is being harassed or bullied, including cyber-bullying or social media, whom should I contact?

Harassment and bullying are serious issues and are not to be tolerated. Please contact the student's assistant principal immediately

PROYECTO SABER PROGRAM

Proyecto Saber is a program that provides academic and cultural support services to Chicano/Latino and other students at BHS. The main focus of our program is intensive tutorial help and graduation planning. Proyecto Saber staff serves as a contact between school and parents, advocates for students and families, and connects families to resources for student success. Our main goal is that students will stay in school and will have access to credit retrieval if necessary for graduation. If you are interested in this class, please contact the teacher at 206-252-1054, contact your counselor, or visit the teacher in Room S100.

Proyecto Saber es un programa que provee apoyo académico y cultural a estudiantes Chicano/Latino (y otros) en BHS. El enfoque principal de nuestra programa es la ayuda tutorial intensiva y la planeación de graduación. Los maestros de Proyecto Saber son el vínculo entre la escuela y las familias, abogan por los estudiantes y familias, y conectan a las familias con los recursos necesarios para asegurar el éxito del estudiante. Nuestra meta principal es que los estudiantes continúen en la escuela y que tengan acceso a la recuperación de crédito si es necesario para graduarse.

