



## **Course Selection FAQ**

### **What is the difference between the course levels?**

- **Academic** – This level fulfills the requirements set out by the state of Texas.
- **College Prep** – This level is more rigorous than Academic, but it is still a 4 pt. class.
- **Dual Credit**- This level is offered in 12th grade in English and Government. Students could simultaneously receive college credit while earning their high school credit.
- **HADV, AP, IB**- These levels are the most rigorous and are 5 pt. classes. (HADV= HISD Advanced)
- **IB** – International Baccalaureate is a rigorous two year program in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Students must take classes and exams in 6 prescribed subjects. There is some choice within each subject.
- **AP** – Advanced Placement is a program designed and regulated by the College Board. Students take college level classes and corresponding exams. Universities often award credit for high scores on AP exams.

For more information about choosing a level visit <http://bit.ly/bhslevels>

### **How do I know which level of class I should take?**

Students should consider their work ethic, ability, and previous experience. A good rule of thumb to help determine which level to choose is to look at the student's scores on a norm-referenced test such as Iowa or ERB. Students who score in the 85th percentile and above on this type of test or have been successful in Vanguard/GT classes in middle school should consider the HADV level. For students who score in the 70-85 percentile, College Prep level may be a good fit. To assist the students with choosing their class levels, BHS Counselors will provide handouts at the middle school visits and parent nights which will have examples of the differences between the levels. Additional information is available on our website at: <http://bit.ly/9bhslevels>

### **If College Prep and Academic are both 4 point classes, why would I take College Prep?**

College Prep provides additional rigor and is often the right fit for a student who wants to move up to HADV, AP or an IB class the following year.

### **How do I try out for athletics, Belles, JV Cheer, or the eMotion Dance Company?**

Every sport, Belles, JV Cheer, and eMotion have different requirements, requiring a try-out and an updated physical from the doctor. For more information, directly contact the coach of the sport you are interested in, Ms. Denman for Belles, Coach Martin for JV Cheer, or Ms. Kent for eMotion. A list of email addresses and upcoming tryout dates is on the Bellaire High School website and in this booklet.

### **What if I want to take a class that is not listed on the Course Selection Sheet?**

There are many classes offered at Bellaire that are not included on the 9<sup>th</sup> grade course selection sheet. Students have to meet prerequisites for many of the other courses we offer.

### **Is there block scheduling at Bellaire?**

No, Bellaire is on a traditional schedule with seven class periods a day.

### **What are my child's graduation requirements?**

Students will enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade under the 26 credit Foundation High School Program with an endorsement and take Algebra II. This will allow them to earn a Distinguished Level of Achievement and become eligible for automatic admission into state universities if they graduate in the top 10% of their class (with the exception of The University of Texas, which is usually top 6%.) For more detailed information, visit the grad plan section of the Cardinals Nest/9<sup>th</sup> grade student information section on our website at: [www.bellaire.org](http://www.bellaire.org)