

BRHS Parent Night FAQs

(Suggestion: Use the **Control+F** function to search for specific keywords)

Q. Will my child have a higher chance of making a team if they attend conditioning?

A. The more opportunities a coach gets a chance to see the athlete and his/her skills. It also allows the coach more time to get to know the athlete as an individual and the coach can really see how that athlete may fit into the team dynamics.

Q. Will there be merchandise for those who play on the school sports team?

A. Yes, there will be an online store posted prior to the start of the season or just after the season starts for students (and parents) to make merchandise purchases.

Q. Can students decide not to take the IB diploma or career path in 11th grade if they double up science in 9th and language in 10th, or do they have to take IB after that? Can a student select IB DP and later go for CP?

A. Students are not locked into any IB decisions they make right now. We want to keep all doors open for rising 9th graders so in 2 years when they are preparing for 11th grade courses, they are not prohibited from participating in either CP or DP because of a lack of courses. We are just asking for an idea now of who is even interested so we can set students up for success with the course selection, but students will not be locked in (unless they are attending BR as a magnet student - they MUST do CP or DP).

Q. If 9th graders decide to NOT go into the IB program, will AP classes continue to be offered in later grades?

A. We will continue to offer AP classes as part of our general course offerings. However, there are some IB and AP classes that have overlap and rather than having competing courses, we would just offer the IB course. Even if a student is not officially part of the IB DP or CP program, he/she can take IB courses during junior and senior year.

Q. How does the IB curriculum work?

A. This is a very broad question that has a lot of parts to it. We recommend visiting the IB website as they have very helpful explanations and diagrams to give a full picture of IB.

[International education - International Baccalaureate® \(ibo.org\)](http://ibo.org)

Q. Will my child be able to apply for North Carolina School of Science and Math in 11th grade?

A. Yes. This is a completely separate educational organization and anyone can visit their website to learn more about their programs.

Q. Will there be a spirit rock?

A. We are fairly sure we will have a spirit rock. However, we are just not sure of where it will be located yet.

Q. How beneficial is the IB program for getting into college? How will it benefit my child in college and his career?

A. The IB DP is a rigorous program of study that emphasizes learning how to learn. This means that students are not only learning content, but they are also learning transferable skills. The DP focuses on the whole student, placing emphasis on personal development and preparation for further academic study. Because the DP is a whole-student program, colleges and universities view this as the most rigorous course option at a school, often placing these students in a different admittance pool. By completing the DP, students are able to prove that they are globally competitive. Students who have completed the DP often cite the skills and experience they had in the DP as excellent preparation for their studies at university.

Q. Is AP Statistics course required for IB DP track? How will kids complete this requirement if they're starting with M2 in freshman year?

A. We apologize for the misleading wording on the 9th grade course card. AP stats is REQUIRED for any student that is currently enrolled in Math 3 in 8th grade. It is NOT required to actually enroll in the IB program when students are going into their junior year. The minimum requirement is Math 1, 2 and 3. The reason we said that AP Stats is required on the card was specifically for those in Math 3 now as that is the only course they are permitted to take in 9th grade. They will then take AP Pre-Calc in 10th grade and then be eligible for IB math classes in 11th grade.

Q. What's the difference between an IB diploma and an IB certificate?

A. IB certificates are given for each IB DP course taken. All students receive a certificate regardless of what score they earn, and this is true for both full DP students and Course Candidates. The IB Diploma can only be earned by engaging in the full 2 year program of study. There are certain criteria that students must obtain in order to earn the IB Diploma.

Q. My kid is doing Math 3 in 8th grade, what will be the pathway in high school? How many AP Courses can he take?

A. Following Math 3, your student will take AP Stats in 9th, and then AP Pre-Calc in 10th. From there, the choices can go a few different directions as IB math will be available along with other AP math choices. This will be an individual decision for all students.

Q. Does the courses my child picks in high school decide what they major in college?

A. They do not. We recommend taking a wide variety of courses in high school - even if a student is not planning on majoring in that field. The most important thing in high school is earning the necessary credits towards graduation, and there are a lot of different classes that can get a student there. Now, are there some classes it may be good to take if a student plans to have a certain major? Yes. For example - if a student knows they want to go into engineering, it would be a good idea to maybe get a taste of this in high school with some of the PLTW classes, and also higher level math.

Q. Can a student take AP US Government in lieu of Civic Literacy? Or is Civic Literacy a requirement?

A. Civic Literacy is a requirement for graduation, but AP US Gov can be taken in lieu of Civic Literacy.

Q. What are the prerequisite classes for the career program IB program?

A. There are not the same requirements for CP as there are for DP. You do not have to have any course minimums for CP. Those exist in Math, Science and World Language for DP only.

Q. My child is in NJHS at her middle school. Is there a high school equivalent of that?

A. We will have a National Honor Society at the high school level. The first time that students are eligible for it is the spring semester of their junior year. We will be establishing that club in the fall and working to get our first induction group for Spring 2025.

Q. If you enroll in IB career or diploma, can they still enroll in AP courses their freshman and sophomore year?

A. Yes - those are the only higher level courses we are able to offer the next 2 years. We have to go through the IB candidacy program before we can offer IB specific courses. 9th and 10th graders will take AP classes now if they want that higher level course experience, and then transition to taking IB in 11th grade.

Q. Do we have to take both sciences in 9th grade to enroll in the DP program?

A. Yes. Students will take Earth and Bio in 9th, and then Chem in 10th. This will allow for them to take Chem, or Bio at the IB level in 11th grade. There will also be opportunities for students to get into Physics.

Q. What branch will ROTC be associated with? Is ROTC an actual class or is it after school? Will ROTC be available for the first year? What are the required grooming regulations for ROTC?

A. ROTC at BR will be Army and it will be an option starting in the first year. If students started ROTC in a different branch at their original high school, they can continue with the next level of ROTC at BR. ROTC is an actual class during the school day, however, there are some extracurricular aspects that take place after school. The grooming requirements are typically centered around hair length/style and facial hair.

Q. Do Spanish 1 and 2 taken in middle school go towards high school credit? Would the next class be Spanish 3 in 9th grade?

A. Yes - if taken in the middle school, Spanish 1 and 2 count towards high school credit and the next course would be Spanish 3. If it is not an option on the card, write it in and then you will see it on the Google form as a choice in the World Language section.

Q. What is the requirement for community service hours for each grade? Can summer volunteer hours count towards it?

A. We plan to implement community service hours as part of the IB program, however, regardless if a student is enrolled in DP or CP, all BR students will be required to complete some form of community service. We are not sure about summer hours yet - These details will be shared once the school year gets started.

Q. For the diploma program, where do the selection of courses come from?

A. There is a set standard selection of courses that come from the IB organization. You can visit the website for more details.

[International education - International Baccalaureate® \(ibo.org\)](http://ibo.org)

Q. What is the difference between Diploma and Career programs?

A. DP is a full load of IB classes for both junior and senior year. CP is more 'a la carte' where students have to take a minimum of 2 IB courses each year, but there is more focus on career exposure and experience. We recommend visiting the IB website for more detailed information.

[International education - International Baccalaureate® \(ibo.org\)](http://ibo.org)

Q. What is the required sequence (9-12) for social studies courses?

A. There are 4 Social Studies courses that are required for graduation: World, Civic Literacy, Econ/Personal Finance, and American History. These courses may be offered in different orders, depending on the high school. We chose our sequence based on the IB courses that will be offered in 11th and 12th grade. That allows students to take them in the IB format, or not, but it keeps them on the same pace as the rest of their grade level peers.

Below is the BR sequence:

9th: Civic Literacy/AP US Government

10th: Econ/Personal Finance

11th: American History/IB History of the Americas

12th: World History/IB History

Q. If a child doesn't choose ID DP at this moment, will he still have a chance to choose in 9 or 10 grade?

A. Yes - but with a caveat - Students must have 3 years of World Language and 3 years of Math, plus the 3 years of Science to enter into DP. The sooner we know a student is interested, the better we can make the course selections 9th and 10th grade year to set him up for success. If a child makes that decision in spring of 10th grade and hasn't taken the necessary courses, it may be too late to factor it into course selections.

Q. I have noticed there are AP classes in general electives and in career and technical education without the non-AP equivalent. For example, there is AP Computer Principles but is there a fundamental class that leads to the AP class? Will my child still be able to take those APs?

A. All AP classes are a little different - some have pre-requisites or non-AP equivalents and some do not. Many times the reason for this is that the AP and non-AP have so much in common, it is acceptable for a student to just take the AP course as a first time course. They will not be behind or missing anything to be successful in that class. Your student can absolutely take that course as long as any prerequisites that are listed *have* been taken (for example - the prerequisite for AP Statistics is Math 3, but there is no 'regular' Statistics course that students will take prior to taking AP Statistics).

Q. Do you have to take Honors Earth AND Honors Biology for the IB Diploma Program?

A. Yes. We want our DP students to have Earth, Bio, and Chem by the end of 10th grade so that there are a number of science options for them going into the IB sciences in 11th grade. These also meet the necessary graduation requirements for science for North Carolina.

Q. Can a Freshman sign up for NCVPS after the first semester of Freshman year or during summer before Sophomore year?

A. Yes, freshmen can take NCVPS their Spring semester of 9th grade, but there will be some limitations and restrictions on courses. At that time, we will discuss what classes are available and how the summer sessions can work.

Q. On what criteria will kids be chosen in their course selection?

A. Initially, it is a random assignment in PowerSchool that does give priority with some classes to students in higher grades. We then hand check each student's schedule in the summer to ensure he/she has received all graduation requirements/core classes, including World Language. Beyond that, we aim for students to get their top choices, but it may come down to alternates.

Q. Can a 9th grader take AP pre-calc in 9th and AP stats in 10th and still be in IB track?

A. 9th graders who have taken up to Math 3 in middle school will have to take AP Stats in 9th and AP Pre-Calc in 10th. This is the path we are offering for all 9th graders with Math 3 completed as it aligns to the IB course sequence when they get to junior year and maintains consistency among students of the same cohort.

Q. If you take Honors Earth AND Honors Biology, is it double blocked (one class for each semester)? And if so, can you still take Honors NC Math 1?

A. Taking Honors Earth and Honors Biology will be double blocked. It will be like taking 2 separate classes though – students may not be with the same group of students for Earth and for Bio, but they will have both classes in their schedule. We realize on the card it says to have Math 1 as a pre-req for Biology – this is fine. We will make sure that he/she has Math in the Fall with Earth and then Bio in the spring.

Q. Does the IB program in junior and senior have fine arts courses (i.e orchestra)?

A. If a student is enrolled in DP, 7/8 classes both junior and senior year will be IB. There will be 1 spot remaining in the course selection for a fine art - such as orchestra. If a student is enrolled in CP, they will have a little more flexibility with their overall course choices, and will still be able to include fine arts options in their schedule.

Q. If you are interested in the CP IB program do you still check the IB box on the card?

A. Yes, check the box, but you will see when you go into the Google form, it does have a separate checkbox for DP, CP, or neither. Be sure to check that one as that is where we will pull our lists of interested students from.

Q. Can there be students from multiple grades in AP classes?

A. Yes. There are some AP classes that are open to students in all grades or multiple grades, and when the schedule is made, the classes end up being a heterogeneous grouping of students across multiple grade levels.

Q. Do you have to be in one of the IB programs to take random 1 or 2 IB classes?

A. There are some IB classes that will be available for any student to take, regardless of them being an official IB student. Those will not be on the schedule card until this 9th grade group is going into their junior year.

Q. Science selections do not have Physics and Chemistry options, will there be a chance to have them later?

A. Yes. The courses on the 9th grade card are specific to freshmen only. As students go up in grade, there are more choices available to them.

Q. Students who got into magnet program via the lottery, do they have to be in DP, or can they be in CP?

A. We want to encourage them to strive for DP, but they can certainly be in CP instead and remain a magnet student.

Q. Can you take 3 sciences in IB DP?

A. There will be an opportunity to take additional sciences as electives. Those options will be available for this current 9th grade class when they are going into junior year.

Q. The kids taking math 3 at JMR but not intending to enroll in IB, is AP statistics their only choice during freshman year?

A. Yes. We are keeping all students on the same progression of classes, regardless of enrolling in IB. Any student coming out of middle school in Math 3 will have to go into AP Statistics in 9th grade. There will be a chance to take AP PreCalc in 10th grade.

Q. How do we choose the level of math that students take?

A. Math is progressive so students just need to sign up for the next level. If it is a question about Honors or Standard - we do offer Foundations, which allows the math to be taught in double the amount of time (yearlong) and it funnels in a good bit of skills review. We typically use EOG scores to determine proper placement in these classes, but it is also parent/student decision as to what is best for the student.

Q. Can a student take AP US Government in lieu of Civic Literacy? Or is Civic Literacy a grad requirement?

A. Civic Literacy is a requirement for graduation, but AP US Gov can be taken in lieu of Civic Literacy.

Q. What happens if we move our residence to another cms high-school after the registration process and course assignment is done?

A. If you move to another residence and attend a different CMS high school, they can request your course choices from us, or they may have you fill out a new card with choices that are specific to that school, or – if we have PowerSchool access and your courses are in the system, they will automatically transfer with you when you enroll at a new CMS school.

Q. My kids are in CMS middle school but we are entering BR through the magnet lottery. So will they also be talking with a student counselor and if so, when?

A. The BR team will be coming to a few schools where we have a large feeder group. If not, parents/students can email their card and then communicate with the counselor either through phone or email.

Q. Do you need 2 or 3 world language credits to enter IB?

A. You need 3 World Language credits of the same language to be eligible for IB.

Q. Is it mandatory to take a course from “Fine Arts” to graduate?

A. It is not mandatory for a student to take a Fine Arts class to graduate. However, there are some colleges who want to see that on the transcript but that is 100% up to the student and parent to figure out and then select the appropriate course as needed.

Q. Do the language credits count as elective credits?

A. Yes, world language credits count towards the overall elective credits.

Q. If a child chooses to do the IB diploma program, do you evaluate him before he can be enrolled in DP?

A. There is not a formal evaluation, such as a test or assessment. The counselor will take a look at how the student is doing in classes and have a conversation with him about diving into IB before the decision is officially made.

Q. How are honors and AP courses weighted?

A. Honors courses add an extra .5 and AP add an extra 1.0.

Q. Is Math 3 a prerequisite to take AP stats?

A. Yes, you have had to have taken and successfully passed Math 3 to take AP Stats.

Q. Will AP calculus be offered?

A. AP Calculus will be offered in later grades. It is not an option for 9th graders at this time. We will be encouraging students to enroll in the IB math classes, as Calculus is part of that curriculum.

Q. Can my kid take Math 2 and Math 3 in his freshman year, so he can take AP Stats in his sophomore year?

A. We apologize for the misleading wording on the schedule card - AP Stats is ONLY required for IB DP for those students who are coming out of middle school with Math 3 already taken. For a student who is coming in with Math 1, he will take Math 2 as a freshman and Math 3 as a sophomore. Math 3 is the MINIMUM math a student needs to be successful and eligible for IB DP in 11th grade, so we would not have a need to double up.

Q. Does marching band count as an elective, and if so, do I get elective credits for doing it? So does marching band count as one of the 8 courses or not?

A. Marching band does NOT count as one of the 8 courses in the schedule. It is an extra-curricular, however, students receive a grade for Marching Band. On the registration card when it says for CREDIT or NO CREDIT, that is asking students if they want the grade to count for their overall GPA or not count for their overall GPA (it will be counted as a standard level class).

Q. If my child is in math 2 in grade 8, can he be in the IB Diploma Program?

A. Yes. Your child will take Math 3 in 9th grade, and AP Stats as a sophomore, which will be more than enough to be eligible for DP.

Q. Does 4 years of Concert Band count as 4 elective credits?

A. Yes, taking Concert Band for 4 years will count each year as a credit, adding 4 elective credits to the overall transcript.

Q. How are students placed into AP classes?

A. There is a hierarchy by grade level in terms of who gets priority of classes. We are going to do our best to ensure that students get their top choices - provided those courses are things we can offer based on the number of student requests.

Q. What is the difference between bold and non-bold on the card?

A. Bold courses are A/B day format. Those are offered every other day for the entire school year. Non-bold classes are semester format. Those are offered every day for half of the school year. Classes must be selected in pairs, so you must have an even number of A/B day and semester classes. You may have a mix of class formats in your schedule, or you may have only semester or only A/B day. For the classes that are offered both ways - that is a choice as to which format you put into your schedule.

Q. For 9th grade, why is Health/PE offered both A/B and semester?

A. Every 9th grader has to take HPE, so it is offered both A/B day and semester to make it fit with your other 7 classes. A helpful hint is to choose your core classes first, then your electives, then select the format of HPE that fits with what you have chosen.

Q. Why do we have to choose alternates and how many do we have to choose?

A. Alternates are extremely important. There is always a chance that you do not receive your top elective choices. Students must pick 3 A/B day **and** 3 semester alternates that are not duplicates of their top course choices.

Q. How do the Foundations of Math/English courses work?

A. Foundations of Math and English are yearlong classes that are paired with Math 1 or English 1, respectively. Jumping from year long classes in middle school to semester classes in high school can be a big transition. For those students who may struggle in reading or math, or who want to set a solid foundation, the Foundations option may be best. It does count as 2 courses, but they will be with the same teacher every day for the whole year.

Q. How does the GPA requirement work for 8th graders to be eligible for sports?

A. For rising 9th graders trying out for a Fall sport, there is no GPA requirement because there are no grades in the high school PowerSchool portal yet. If a 9th grader wants to try out for Winter or Spring sports, their high school grades earned to that point will be used to calculate GPA for eligibility.

Q. As a rising 9th grader, when can I begin participating in sports?

A. As a current 8th grader, students cannot participate in high school sports. However, come June 10th when they have officially completed the 8th grade, students may begin participating in any try-outs or practices at the high school level.

Q. What are the other high schools that will be in our conference?

A. The other high schools in our conference are Ardrey Kell, South Meck, Berry, Myers Park, Olympic and Palisades.

Q. Will there be a women's lacrosse team?

A. Yes!!

Q. Does BRHS have a swimming pool? Will you have a swimming team?

A. There is not a swimming pool, but we will have a swim team. Coach Smith is working on partnering with some surrounding facilities to get access for practices.

Q. What sports are available?

A. Here is the [LINK](#) to the parent presentation. Slide 19 has the list of sports that we plan to offer, provided we are able to find head coaches to hire.

Q. Will there be a summer basketball team put together for tournaments in June?

A. The plan is yes – this will be dependent on hiring a coach and access to facilities for practice. All of this information will be shared as soon as we know it.

Q. Will 9th graders be allowed to try out for sports and will there be a JV and Varsity team?

A. 9th graders are allowed to try out and it will be dependent on numbers if we are able to field both a JV and Varsity team for each sport.

Q. Who is the football coach?

A. We are still working through the hiring process and when that is official – we will make an announcement to let the community know. We hope this to be in March for all coaches.

Q. When can we sign up for sports?

A. Here is the [LINK](#) to the interest form that Coach Smith created. This will give us a general idea of students and what sports. We will use this list to communicate specific information once coaches and details of practices and try-outs have been organized.

Q. Will all of the teams fit on one practice field?

A. Coach Smith is setting up a schedule for teams, prioritizing those teams that are currently in-season. This will be something the coaches work on together. With a football field, track, practice field, main gym, auxiliary gym, and weight room – we will be able to accommodate what teams need when needed.

Q. Would Men's lacrosse - if you can even field a team - be JV to start?

A. This is a possibility. We will know more once we hire a coach and see what the interest level is.

Q. Will there be a strength and conditioning coach?

A. We will have a qualified/certified strength and conditioning coach. We are working through the interview process now and hope to name that person by late March.

Q. How can I find out about coaching opportunities?

A. If you are interested in coaching, reach out directly to Coach Smith at jeffrey.smith@cms.k12.nc.us.

Q. Will there be a "dead period" in July like there is at AK?

A. Yes, there will be a dead period in the summer. July 1st-6th will be a dead period, 8th-13th is the coach's discretion, and 15th-10th is another dead period.

Q. South Meck and AK have mature booster support. Will Ballantyne Ridge have a booster organization?

A. Yes – BRHS will have a booster club. To get started, we will be an extension of PTSO and we plan to grow it from there.

Q. If available next school year, will marching band/winter ensemble students be held to the same standards as athletics?

A. There will be a standard and specific expectations set for marching band. These will be created and shared once the band director is hired.

Q. Is there any requirement for volunteer hours or some system that we should be logging them in on? Will they transfer from our current school?

A. There will be community service hours that are part of the IB program. We want to encourage all students to do community service, but we do not have a plan for tracking the hours. For now, log them into whatever platform your school uses, and you can always print a transcript from there at the end of the year to keep record. There is a chance that the hours will not automatically transfer, and we may be using a different platform.

Q. Where can we find the Student Clubs information and process to create new clubs?

A. Nothing specific has been shared yet. The process and procedures are being developed behind the scenes and all of that will be shared during the first weeks of school. We will need student leaders to start all clubs so there will be plenty of opportunities - for 9th graders too!

Q. Is marching band a go for year 1?

A. This is the plan! However, it is all student-driven and we intend for there to be significant interest so we can move forward with this.

Q. How many AP courses can a freshman (9th grade) take?

A. Similar to AK and SM, 9th graders are limited to 2 total AP classes.

Q. Will Drivers Ed be offered during summer and beginning of the school year? How do we sign up?

A. We will have Drivers Ed at BRHS this year. We cannot host it until the fall as we do not have access to the building. If you are looking for summer classes, you will have to check the website for alternate locations. We do not yet have a date for when BR will be an option on the Jordan Driving School list - everything is run through them.

Q. How many teachers from AK, SM, MP, JMR, etc. are joining BR school?

A. We are not sure yet as we have not hired anyone. We will be hiring a variety of teachers from a variety of schools with a variety of experience levels – we are looking for the best candidates to fill our positions.

Q. Regarding Speech and Debate, who will be coach at BR? When will this club start?

A. We do not know who the coach will be, but we are keeping this in mind as we work through the hiring process. The club will hopefully start in the fall, but that will be dependent on the coach.

Q. Can my child transfer to AK/SM even though they are assigned to BRHS?

A. As a rising 11th grader, you can reach out to your principal and work with them to remain at your current school. This was an option for rising juniors only. As an incoming 9th or 10th grader, you do not have the option to transfer.

Q. My son has been taking automotive at South Meck, will BR offer automotive?

A. We were not built with the facilities to have automotive. We understand that students started these classes at SM, and we hope to find them other classes and programs to get enrolled in.

Q. Do we have Homeroom every day?

A. We will have Homeroom every day, and students will remain in the same Homeroom with the same group of students until they graduate.

Q. What is the estimated student to teacher ratio?

A. We aim to have an average of 30 students per class, but some ratios are course specific. There will certainly be classes that have less than that, and some that have more.

Q. How CMS anticipated budget cuts as reported by news outlets will affect availability AP courses/ teachers?

A. The district will provide teacher allotments to schools in the Spring as they always do. We will use these allotments to make hiring decisions, but the main indicator of what we offer will be driven by the student choices. We will staff the courses that get the most interest.

Q. Can a rising 10th or 11th grader opt for the IB program?

A. They cannot. IB will start with the incoming 9th graders only. It is a 2-year process to get IB approval and we will not be able to start these classes with our rising 10th and 11th graders.

Q. My child is taking Math-3 in 8th grade. What math options exist for his 4 years of high school?

A. For next year, your child will take AP Stats, and then AP Pre-Calc the year after that. Then as a junior, there will be IB math options, as well as AP Calculus options. We will have plenty of upper-level math for your child to take through his 4 years. [IB Math Chart](#)

Q. My child had Latin in middle school, but I don't see Latin in World Language. What is the option?

A. If your child started a language and has completed at least Level I of any language, we will honor this as they transition to BR and keep them in that language. However, these may not all be taken in-person. Due to limited staffing, some of these languages will have to be taken virtually.

Q. Will there be a theater program?

A. We will offer Theatre and Technical Theatre classes. We plan to have a theater program that puts on productions during the year.

Q. Will there be a 12th grade graduation?

A. Not in year one. We will only have 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students for the 2024-2025 school year. Our first graduating class will be the class of 2026.

Q. Are we having an AVID program?

A. We will not be offering AVID next year.

Q. How can we purchase merchandise?

A. Here is the [LINK](#) to purchase BRHS merchandise.

Q. What steps will you take to maintain the high standards of AK and SM in this new school?

A. We have worked hard with both South Meck and Ardrey Kell to continue the excellence they've created within their current communities. We will partner with families to accelerate high standards for academic outcomes for children.

Q. If a student has already entered volunteer hours in x2 Volunteer, will these transfer over?

A. We are not sure if we will be using the same volunteer program. There is a way for students to print their transcripts from X2Vol so they can ensure they have a record of their volunteer hours. Because we will be meeting community service requirements through the IB program, there is a chance we will be using a different platform.

Q. If students haven't taken Business Essentials freshman year, can they enroll for Honors Business Management?

A. They cannot. Business is not one of the pathways we will be starting at BR. We have worked with the district to help us decide our pathways and they are Sports/Influencer Marketing, Digital Marketing, Engineering/Architecture, and BioMedical Science. However, we have a number of students who are coming as rising 10th and 11th graders who started a business pathway at their current high school. We are offering the continuation of those courses on a limited basis so students who began that pathway can complete it. We may revisit offering the Business Essentials class and will communicate this option to parents/students should we go that route.

Q. What are the plans for the Exceptional Children's department?

A. We will provide a full range of services for our EC students, including Extensions, OCS, and inclusion. We will work with EC district personnel to conduct transition meetings in the Spring with all of our EC students prior to them starting at BR. We will have highly qualified staff for all of the EC programs, including department chair, teachers and teacher assistants.

Q. If my child is a junior will there be a senior graduation, or will they have to go back to AK for graduation?

A. No. We will have a senior graduation for the class of 2026. The Rising 11th graders will have a formal graduation from Ballantyne Ridge.

Q. How do CPCC and NCVPS work? Will they be an option for juniors or during the summer of sophomore year?

A. Dual enrollment through CPCC will be an option for Juniors. Per CMS, rising juniors cannot take CPCC classes during the summer prior to their junior year. Those classes can start in the fall. Students can take 1 additional CPCC course each semester and have 1 period of early release each semester to accommodate that. NCVPS classes can be taken as well. Those will be in addition to the school day. TO SIGN UP FOR EITHER PROGRAM – please work with the counseling department and the CDC at your current school to follow their processes for enrollment. We will get that information when students are officially transferred to BR in the summer.

Q. How many AP courses can 10th graders take?

A. The number of AP classes a 10th grader can take is unlimited.

Q. My son (9th grade) is assigned to BR regular school. Can he get into IB automatically or do we need to register separately?

A. If your child is a RISING 9th grader, and BR is his home school, there will be an opportunity for him to enroll in IB prior to entering junior year. We will be asking on the 9th grade course form if your child is interested, so be sure to check that so we can set him up for success during 9th and 10th grade to enter into IB as a junior.

If your child is a CURRENT 9th grader and will be a 10th grader at BR next year, he is not eligible for the IB program as we will not have it until after we go through the application process, which will take close to 2 years.

Q. When will Seniors attend the school?

A. Seniors will be at BR starting in the 2025-2026 school year. The rising juniors we are getting next year will be the first senior class. They will be the graduating class of 2026.

Q. Will you have a national honors society or clubs like DECA and FBLA that are part of an association?

A. We will initiate the honors societies, but clubs like DECA and FBLA will need to be started by student leaders. Information on how to do this will be shared during the first weeks of school.

Q. Do you know how many lunch periods there would be?

A. We will operate with 4 lunches that will each be 25 minutes long.

Q. Will you offer Spanish 4?

A. We will certainly offer it for those students who want to continue in the language. Depending on student interest will determine if/how it can be scheduled into the school day.

Q. How many juniors are coming to Ballantyne Ridge?

A. We are tentatively planning on around 275 juniors at BR next year.

Q. How about college courses? Can students take college courses and how will it be included in student's records?

A. Students can take CPCC classes as juniors and seniors. For juniors next year, they can take 1/semester and have a period of early release to do so. Once we get a senior class, we will revisit our policy for them taking classes. We will have a process and a limit to determine what classes will go on the BRHS transcript. If a student takes beyond our limit, those classes will be available on their CPCC transcript to send separately to colleges.

Q. Is it true that CTE courses will no longer add extra points to the GPA at Ballantyne Ridge?

A. PLTW classes will all now be an Honors weight (.5). Prior to this, some were worth 1 point (same as an AP). This is not just unique to BR, but all high schools in CMS will be following this weighting.

Q. Will there be a student council?

A. Yes. For the first year, it will not be a specific class in the student's schedule. We are reaching out to current leadership students at both AK and SM to get some of that planning started over the summer, but it will be open for all BR students to get involved in.

Q. When will students take the PSAT? Will it be required of all students?

A. 10th and 11th grade students will be required to take it in the Fall semester.

Q. My child was really looking forward to AP Seminar. Is that a course you will offer in the future?

A. As of right now, we do not have plans to start the Seminar/Research capstone program. AP Research is offered to honor those students who started it with Seminar at their current schools. Down the road, we will have IB course offerings that will be open to all students that are extremely similar in content and course structure to Seminar/Research, so rather than have competing programs, we will just offer the IB.

Q. For doctor or dental appointments - would it count as a tardy or would a medical note be acceptable?

A. If your child has an appointment, it is always good to bring a medical note from the doctor or dentist to verify the absence/tardy. It will still count in the system and count towards total absences. The excused/unexcused all go towards the total amount for a class. It helps to have the notes for our records.

Q. If I don't want to take the IB program, can I take AP pre calc in 9th grade if I have finished math 3 in middle school?

A. We are having all of our 9th graders that have Math 3 in middle school take Stats as freshmen. This is even if they are not planning on taking IB. The progression of courses after Stats will be AP Pre-Calc, and then Calc. This is an acceptable order for all students, and will still give them a chance to take Calculus level math before graduation. [IB Math Chart](#)

Q. Will kids have access to lockers in the school?

A. Lockers are not being built at BR. Students will not have the ability to use them.

Q. What does it mean when it says that honors biology students will do it over the summer? Is this opportunity available for freshmen?

A. The wording on the card is as follows: "All students will be placed into **Honors Biology** over the summer. By designating the level now, we are able to evenly distribute students across all sections and data track student progress and success." This note applies to students who are signing up for Standard

Biology. It means that we will be moving everyone in PowerSchool over to the Honors courses during the summer and only be offering Honors. There is nothing that a student will have to do or take during the summer regarding the course.

Q. What is the plan for the orchestra program?

A. We plan to offer orchestra at BR. We will hire a qualified teacher and once he/she is on board, we will look at the enrollment numbers and determine exactly how classes are structured and what the program will consist of.

Q. Will the school offer eSports similar to South Meck and AK?

A. eSports will be a club and if we have students that want to initiate that club and can find an advisor to sponsor them, we will certainly have it at BR.

Q. Do honor or AP classes give you extra credits or extra points to your GPA?

A. Honors is an extra .5 and AP is an extra 1.

Q. Will there be classrooms in mobile units?

A. There will not be any mobile units.

Q. Can you confirm how students can make a request for classes?

A. Because we do not have PowerSchool access, students need to first fill out their course cards, and then transfer their courses into the Google form we have created. The links are below (9th grade will not open until 2/9).

Rising 9th Grade: https://bit.ly/brhscourses_grade9

Rising 10th Grade (AKHS): https://bit.ly/brhscourses_grade10AK

Rising 11th Grade (AKHS): https://bit.ly/brhscourses_grade11AK

Rising 10th Grade (SMHS): https://bit.ly/brhscourses_grade10SM

Rising 11th Grade (SMHS): https://bit.ly/brhscourses_grade11SM

Q. Can you choose between early release or late arrival?

A. To start, juniors who are enrolled in CPCC can take one period of ER only each semester. This will be subject to review for their senior year.

Q. Will there be counselors at BR?

A. Yes. We will have a full counseling team.

Q. Being a new school, how does communication work to different colleges letting them know details like available course options, etc?

A. Colleges add schools on listservs at the beginning of each year. They get a list of counselors and schools and promote their information to us. Students will also get information from colleges when they take the PSAT, and SAT. Schools are required to submit a school profile to the colleges as well, and we will have one developed to send them.

Q. Will Ballantyne Ridge offer a period in May where students have opportunities to change course selections?

A. Yes, BRHS will have an Amnesty period in May to allow students to request changes to their course choices.

Q. Does 'Music Theory' class make my child eligible for marching band?

A. No, it does not. To be in marching band, students must also enroll in a specific band class during the school day. Music Theory does not count as a band class as it is just a general music elective.

Q. Will BR have the same level of AP and Honors classes as AK and SM?

A. With the exception of a few very specific classes, the course offerings at BR mirror those at both AK and SM. We have offered all of these, but again, we cannot guarantee that all of them will make into classes. That will be driven by student requests.

Q. On the 11th grade registration card, AP Physics 1 counts as 1 credit whereas on AK registration card, it counts as 2. Is that intentional? If yes, why?

A. AP Physics only counts as 1 credit at both schools. At AK, it is offered as a yearlong/every day class, which makes it worth 2 class periods/1 credit – not 2 credits. At BR, it is offered yearlong/every other day, which is 1 class period/1 credit. The district allows schools to offer this course in either format depending on the needs of the school and scheduling restrictions.

Q. Do the kids have to submit their course requests by Google, or will SM and AK do it for them?

A. We want each student to access the Google form to enter their courses. The schools will collect the cards for record keeping purposes, but they will not be entering the courses for the students.

Q. Is there anywhere with more info on the classes?

A. Here is the [LINK](#) to the BRHS Course Description Guide. This gives additional information about the courses being offered.

Q. Can a kid do math 3 and AP Pre-Calculus?

A. Not at the same time. We offer students one chance to double up in 10th grade by taking Math 2 and Math 3. This is so they can either be prepared to enter into the IB DP track as a junior OR access AP level math classes before they graduate. Also, Math 3 is a semester class and AP Pre-Calc is yearlong, so they must be taken in separate years. [IB Math Chart](#)

Q. When will kids know about counselors and how will their information be passed to new counselors?

A. As we finalize hiring and get closer to the start of the school year, we will share the counselor caseload breakdown with everyone. There will be a process for their former counselors/school to share pertinent information with their new counselor.

Q. You mentioned supply and demand for courses. However, the course that my child needs (for example Honor Chamber Orchestra) is not listed as an option on the registration card - how do we request for those courses?

A. For Fine Arts classes, once we hire our staff and get the recommendation lists from SM and AK, we will place students in the appropriate levels. For other classes such as general electives, if they are not listed, we are not offering them, so please do not add them to the card. For World Languages, if a student started a language and he/she wants to continue that language but it is not written, that needs to be written on the card. For core classes, if it is something a student failed or they need to take as the next progressive course and it is not on the card, that needs to be written in as well.

Q. My child is currently at South Meck. Should they submit their registration card to South Meck or complete the Google form?

A. They will do both. Cards are due now, and then South Meck students will be putting their choices into the Google form in the coming days.

Q. Concert Band mentions fee required. What is that fee?

A. That fee may cover concert attire as well as some sheet music costs. We are not sure exactly what the total cost will be as that will be determined by the band director once hired. We do not want a financial requirement to prohibit any student from participating in the Arts, so if it is an issue, please reach out to us directly and we can work with you.

Q. Can the student put AP courses not offered at BRHS under Alternative option so that it can be considered?

A. The only AP that can be added is AP Calculus BC for those students who are taking AB currently. Otherwise, the courses that are on the card are what is being offered – no additional ones can be written in.

Q. Can a child do either a course in social studies or social studies electives?

A. Students MUST choose a social studies course from the social studies box as that is a graduation requirement. Beyond that, if he/she wants to add a social studies elective as one of their elective choices, that is acceptable but not mandatory.

Q. Accounting honors I is not offered on the registration card for sophomores but is offered at AK can we add as an alternative?

A. This is not a course that we are offering next year, so please do not write it on the card. You will have to choose a different elective in its place.

Q. What if a student wants to register for a course that has less demand but is a prerequisite for college?

A. Our first priority is making sure that students meet their graduation requirements per the State of North Carolina. We can take into consideration things that colleges would *like* to see when students are requesting classes, but that is not what drives scheduling decisions.

Q. Is there a chance the limited AP offerings will expand?

A. We did a deep dive into both SM and AK course cards when making ours, and with a few exceptions, have mirrored those choices as closely as possible. There will always be a chance for courses to change from year to year and we do take student feedback into making those decisions.

Q. Did I understand that students can enter an alternate course that is not listed on the course card? (For example, Japanese is offered at South Meck. Should it be listed as a request to show interest?)

A. Students who started languages at their current schools and have a desire to continue them can write them in on the card. However, we are not starting certain languages which is why they are not on the card, so if your child is looking to begin a language, he/she must choose from the offerings on the card – Japanese I would not be an accepted write-in.

Q. What is the registration process for non-CMS students?

A. Students who are not in CMS but are in our attendance zone and plan to attend BR next year need to first enroll. This can be done at any CMS school and information about what is needed can be found on the CMS website. Once you are enrolled, that information will be shared with us, and we will get in touch with you about when/where/how you register for classes.

Q. Will AP Biology be offered? It is not listed as an option.

A. AP Biology is listed on the 11th grade cards for South Meck and Ardrey Kell. Due to meeting the necessary prerequisites, this course is only available to juniors.

Q. My son is in German 2 now, what would he take next year?

A. If he wants to continue in German, and it is not offered on the card, please write in German III and we will get him enrolled in it. There is a chance this may be taken virtually.

Q. How can my East Meck student moving to BR meet with one of the BR counselors prior to registration closing on Wednesday?

A. Students do not meet with counselors prior to putting courses in. Those choices are made by parents and students and then counselors will meet with students through the months of February and March and changes will be made as needed. Parents will be looped into these changes.

Q. Our child is a rising 9th grader. How can we meet Feb. 7th deadline to enter courses?

A. The timeline is different for the middle schools. Each middle school will be communicating to parents and families about their registration process. The window for that opens 2/9 and ends 2/23. There will be plenty of time in that window to complete the registration card and fill out the Google form.

Q. What will the CPCC early release time be?

A. This will be after 3rd period, which tentatively ends at 12:45. CPCC students will be dismissed at that time.

Q. How do we register if a student needs to repeat a class that he/she did not pass?

A. If that course is an option on the course card, you will select it. If it is not there, you will have to write it in and when your child meets with the counselor to review choices, it will be added formally to his/her course requests.

Q. Will you offer Spanish 4 or 5 in the future?

A. Yes – we want to encourage students to take a language for as many years as they are at BR. If your student is ready to take it now and it is not on the card, please write it in so that they are not without a language for a year. It is possible that this will be taken virtually.

Q. Does financial planning count under the business pathway that will be taken out? Will financial planning be offered the second year?

A. Financial Planning is part of a business pathway, and we will not be starting that pathway. Those classes are offered for students who took Business Essentials at their current school, and we want to offer them a chance to finish the pathway with us.

Q. Will BR use the same apps for communication as AK and SM?

A. Yes. We will get access to our own Parent Square. For now, we will continue to communicate using the Parent Square of each of our feeder schools to send out information. We also now have our website established, so we will also use that for sharing valuable information.