

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credit Requirements

The Bethlehem Area School District is committed to providing the best education possible to the students of the district. This commitment is personified in the adoption of demanding requirements for graduation. Students, who graduate from either Freedom High School or Liberty High School, are required to complete a minimum of 26.0 credits.

Course Requirements

The district supports a variety of curricular areas for study at the high school level. A minimum number of credits is required within individual academic disciplines; however, students are also offered the opportunity to pursue personal interests through a variety of elective offerings at each high school. Graduation requirements are based upon credit attainment, which combines both required and elective coursework.

Graduation Project

The Bethlehem Area School District requires all graduating students, beginning with the Class of 2006, to complete a “Graduation Project.” Finalization of the framework is currently under study. The district also desires to improve communications with alumni to better inform our practice. To that end, a committee devoted to the improvement of alumni relations will be formed.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Goal Number(s): O-3
Objective Statement: The BASD will delineate course requirements for graduation.
Action Plan Statement: The BASD will clarify and detail course requirements for graduation as determined by "Program of Study."

Activity Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the course selection booklets at Freedom and Liberty High Schools 2. Update the course requirements for the various Program of Study 3. Clarify credit requirements as per Program of Study
Person/Group Responsible	High school principals
Timelines for Completion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. April 2004—review the course selection booklets at Freedom and Liberty High Schools 2. May 2004—update the course requirements for the various programs of study 3. Clarify the credit requirements as per the programs of study 4. July 2004—propose changes to Board of School Directors
Resources Needed	Course selection booklets from Freedom and Liberty High Schools
Evaluation/Indicators of Success	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study of graduation rates 2. Credit completion at dropout stages analysis 3. Study of average total completion of credits beyond 26
Date Completed	June 2004

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Bethlehem Area School Districts supports rigorous standards for high school graduation. The district requires students to complete 26.0 credits to earn a high school diploma.

Credits are distributed among a wide range of required and elective courses.

The four-year high school graduation requirements and associated programs of study are detailed on the following pages.

General Information

Four-Year High School Graduation Requirements

Required Courses	Credit
English 9	1.0
English 10	1.0
English 11	1.0
English 12	1.0
Western Civilization 9	1.0
U.S. History 10*	1.0
U.S. History 11	1.0
Government/Economics	1.0
Mathematics	4.0
Science**	4.0
Physical Education 9	0.5
Physical Education 10	0.5
Physical Education 11	0.5
Physical Education 12	0.5
Health 9	0.5
Health 10	0.5
Computer Technology	0.5
Community Service	0.5
Arts**	1.0
General Electives	<u>5.0</u>
Total	26.0

Art courses include elective courses in the language arts and world languages departments as well as all courses within the Fine and Practical Arts Department.

* Career Prep Program requires only 3 credits.

** Beginning with the Class of 2008.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY
Career Prep – Business Technology Program

Grade 9 Credit

Career Prep English 9.....	1.0
Career Prep Social Studies 9.....	1.0
Career Prep Mathematics 9.....	1.0
Career Prep Science 9.....	1.0
Career Prep Computer Technology.....	1.0
Career Prep Introduction to Business.....	1.0
Career Prep Career Explorations.....	1.0
Health/Fitness	1.0

..... 8.0

Grade 10 Credit

Career Prep English 10.....	1.0
Career Prep Mathematics IAGS 1 and 2	2.0
Career Prep 10 Computer Technology	1.0
Career Prep Employability Skills and Communication	1.0
Career Prep Business Electives.....	2.0
Health/Fitness	1.0

..... 8.0

Grade 11Credit

English 11	1.0
Social Studies 11	1.0
Career Prep Mathematics IAGS 3	1.0
Science	1.0
Business Electives	4.0

..... 8.0

Grade 12Credit

English 12	1.0
American Government/Economics	1.0
Science	1.0
Physical Education 11-12	1.0
Business Electives	4.0

..... 8.0

In this program the graduation requirement for four (4) credits in social studies is waived.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY
Career Prep – Vocational Program

Grade 9	Credit
Career Prep English 9.....	1.0
Career Prep Social Studies 9.....	1.0
Career Prep Mathematics 9.....	1.0
Career Prep Science 9.....	1.0
Vocational Shop	3.0
Health/Fitness	1.0
.....	<hr/> 8.0

Grade 10	Credit
Career Prep English 10.....	1.0
Career Prep Mathematics IAGS 1 & 2....	2.0
Vocational/Technical Shop.....	4.0
Health/Fitness	1.0
.....	<hr/> 8.0

Grade 11	Credit
English 11	1.0
Social Studies 11	1.0
Career Prep Mathematics IAGS 3	1.0
Science	1.0
Vocational/Technical Shop.....	4.0
.....	<hr/> 8.0

Grade 12	Credit
English 12	1.0
American Government/Economics	1.0
Science	1.0
Physical Education 11-12	1.0
Vocational/Technical Shop.....	4.0
.....	<hr/> 8.0

In this program the graduation requirement for four (4) credits in social studies is waived.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Honors College Preparatory Program

Grade 9	Credit
Honors or Academic English 9	1.0
Honors or Academic Western Civilization 9	1.0
Honors or Academic Mathematics.....	1.0
Honors or Academic Introduction to Chemistry and Physics.....	1.0
Technology course	1.0
World Language.....	1.0
Health/Fitness	1.0
Elective	1.0
8.0	

Grade 10	Credit
Honors or Academic English 10	1.0
Honors or Academic U.S. History 10	1.0
Honors or Academic Mathematics.....	1.0
Honors or Academic Biology	1.0
World Language.....	1.0
Health/Fitness	1.0
Elective	2.0
8.0	

Grade 11	Credit
Honors or Academic English 11	1.0
Honors or Academic U.S. History 11	1.0
Honors or Academic Mathematics	1.0
Honors or Academic Chemistry	1.0
World Language	1.0
Physical Education 11-12	0.5
Elective	2.5
8.0	

Grade 12	Credit
AP, Honors, or Academic English 12.....	1.0
AP, Honors, or Academic Government or Principles of Economics	1.0
AP, Honors, or Academic Mathematics ..	1.0
AP, Honors, or Academic Physics or Honors Human Anatomy/Physiology	1.0
World Language	1.0
Physical Education 11-12	0.5
Elective	2.5
8.0	

During grades 9 through 12, a student must fulfill the following requirements:

- Take a minimum of two (2) Honors and/or AP courses each year to be classified as an Honors College Preparatory student.
- Complete a minimum of three (3) years of the same World Language.

Students considering careers in the fields of electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, general engineering, computer technology, information specialist, systems analyst, architecture, computer aided drafting, nutrition, machine shop, electronics, or medical support, should consider courses offered at the Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School. For further information consult the counseling staff at Freedom High School, and/or the Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Academic College Preparatory Program

Grade 9 Credit

Honors or Academic English 9	1.0
Honors or Academic Western Civilization 9	1.0
Honors or Academic Mathematics.....	1.0
Honors or Academic Introduction to Chemistry and Physics.....	1.0
Technology course	1.0
World Language.....	1.0
Health/Fitness	1.0
*Elective	1.0
.....	8.0

Grade 10 Credit

Honors or Academic English 10	1.0
Honors or Academic U.S. History 10	1.0
Honors or Academic Mathematics.....	1.0
Honors or Academic Biology	1.0
World Language.....	1.0
Health/Fitness	1.0
*Elective	2.0
.....	8.0

Grade 11Credit

Honors or Academic English 11	1.0
Honors or Academic U.S. History 11	1.0
Honors or Academic Mathematics	1.0
Honors or Academic Chemistry	1.0
World Language	1.0
Physical Education 11-12	0.5
*Elective	2.5
.....	8.0

Grade 12Credit

AP, Honors, or Academic English 12.....	1.0
AP Government, AP Economics, Honors, or Academic Government/Principles of Economics	1.0
AP, Honors, or Academic Mathematics ..	1.0
AP, Honors, or Academic Physics or Honors Human Anatomy/Physiology	1.0
World Language	1.0
Physical Education 11-12	0.5
*Elective	2.5
.....	8.0

During grades 9 through 12, a student must complete a minimum of three (3) years of the same World Language.

*In addition to general school wide electives a technical shop or laboratory experience at the Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School will satisfy this requirement.

Students considering careers in the fields of electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, general engineering, computer technology, information specialist, systems analyst, architecture, computer aided drafting, nutrition, machine shop, electronics, or medical support, should consider courses offered at the Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School. For further information consult the counseling staff at Freedom High School, and/or the Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Goal Number(s): E-1
Objective Statement: The BASD will implement a Graduation Project.
Action Plan Statement: The BASD will develop and implement a Graduation Project for the Graduating Class of 2006.

Activity Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand portfolio concept and include all subject areas 2. Develop Graduation Project requirements
Person/Group Responsible	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High school principals 2. Coordinator of English language arts 3. Graduation Project Committee
Timelines for Completion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. May 2004-finalize development of Graduation Project 2. May 2004-finalize contents of student portfolio 3. June 2004-presentation to the Board Curriculum Committee 4. August 2004-adoption by Board of School Directors
Resources Needed	Funding for project development
Evaluation/Indicator of Success	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State requirement 2. Feedback from teachers and students 3. Rubrics for satisfactory completion of Graduation Project
Date Completed	September 2004

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Goal Number(s): E-4
Objective Statement: The BASD will improve graduate/alumni data collection process
Action Plan Statement: The BASD will improve communications with recent graduates/alumni for the purpose of informing the educational programs

Activity Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint a committee to construct a vehicle through which relevant data about recent graduates from Freedom and Liberty High Schools could be collected 2. Develop a process to collect and analyze data collected from recent graduates/alumni 3. Secure approval from the Board of School Directors for program and process
Person/Group Responsible	Facilitator and committee to be appointed
Timelines for Completion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. April 2004-facilitator and committee appointed 2. July 2004-design and process framework for data collection finalized 3. October 2004-presentation to the Board Curriculum Committee 4. January 2005-presentation to the Board of School Directors for Approval
Resources Needed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial support for program development 2. Time and access to research programs used in other schools
Evaluation/Indicator of Success	Percentage of recent graduates/alumni who provide requested data
Date Completed	February 2005