



Mountaineer Path to Success



2026-2027 Student & Family Course Selection
Partnering with Families for Student Success

Berlin Middle High School

Community Presentation

January 20, 2026

Purpose of Tonight's Presentation

We are here to:

1. Explain the course selection process for 2026–2027
2. Review graduation requirements
3. Outline what's included in the [Course Catalog](#)
4. Show how course choices connect to life after high school
5. Highlight the importance of family involvement
6. Answer questions and support informed decision-making

Our Shared Goal

Students First. Always.

- Every decision is grounded in what is best for students—academically, socially, and emotionally.

High Expectations, Real Support

- We challenge every Mountaineer while ensuring the structures are in place for success.

Belonging Fuels Achievement

- When students feel safe, valued, and heard, they rise.

Attendance Matters. Engagement Matters More.

- Students can't succeed if they aren't present—physically and mentally.

Consistency Builds Trust

- Clear expectations, fair practices, and follow-through across classrooms and programs.

Shared Responsibility. Shared Success.

- Student outcomes improve when we work as one school, one team, one Mountaineer community.

What Is the Course Selection Process?

Course selection is a collaborative, thoughtful process that includes:

- Student interests and strengths
- Academic performance and teacher input
- Graduation requirements
- Counselor guidance
- Family conversations and input
- Post-secondary planning

Course Selection Timeline (January - March)

Key Steps in the Process:

- Review the [BMHS Course Catalog 2026-2027](#)
- Classroom presentations and career assembly
- Counselors hold individual meetings with students
- Teacher input is gathered
- Course requests entered and sent home for review
- Family conversations at home
- Schedules finalized over the spring & summer, mailed home at the end of August

What Drives Course Selection for Students?

Course decisions are guided by:

- Academic readiness and performance
- Teacher recommendations
- Student interests and passions
- Future goals (college, career, military, trades)
- Balance and student well-being
- NYS Graduation Requirements

Graduation Requirements - Regents Diploma

<p align="center"><i>-REGENTS DIPLOMA- REQUIRED COURSES AND CREDIT (22 CREDITS)</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>-REGENTS DIPLOMA- REQUIRED REGENTS EXAMS & GRADE WHEN TAKEN</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ENGLISH – 4 CREDITS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Common Core ENGLISH – 11TH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SOCIAL STUDIES – 4 CREDITS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GLOBAL HIST. & GEO. - 10TH ● U.S. HIST. & GOV. – 11TH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MATH – 3 CREDITS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>ONE MATH EXAM</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SCIENCE – 3 CREDITS (INCLUDES <u>1</u> LAB SCIENCE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>ONE SCIENCE REGENTS EXAM</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HEALTH EDUCATION – ½ CREDIT 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ART or MUSIC – 1 CREDIT 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PHYSICAL EDUCATION – 2 CREDITS (½ CREDIT EACH YEAR IN HS) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SPANISH – 1 CREDIT 	

Graduation Requirements - Adv. Regents Diploma

<p align="center">-ADVANCED REGENTS DIPLOMA- REQUIRED COURSES AND CREDIT (22 CREDITS)</p>	<p align="center">-ADVANCED REGENTS DIPLOMA- REQUIRED REGENTS EXAMS & GRADE WHEN TAKEN</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MATH – ALGEBRA, GEOMETRY, ● ALGEBRA II – 3 CREDITS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>THREE MATH EXAMS</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SCIENCE – 3 CREDITS (INCLUDES <u>2</u> LAB SCIENCES) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>TWO SCIENCE REGENTS EXAM</u> (1 LIFE SCIENCE + 1 PHYSICAL SCIENCE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HEALTH EDUCATION – ½ CREDIT 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ART or MUSIC – 1 CREDIT 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PHYSICAL EDUCATION – 2 CREDITS (½ CREDIT EACH YEAR IN HS) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SPANISH – 3 CREDITS 	

Pathways to Graduation

- ✓ Humanities (traditional) – A second social studies exam (or state approved alternate assessment)
- ✓ STEM – A second science regents or a second math regents (or state approved alternate assessment)
- ✓ CTE – Completion of a state-approved Career & Technical Education (CTE) program and assessment
- ✓ Arts – completion of an arts sequence (and state approved arts assessment)
- ✓ Language other than English (LOTE) – Completion of a foreign language sequence and state-approved foreign language assessment
- ✓ CDOS – completed career plan, 216 hrs of Career and Tech. Education (54 hrs of which are work based learning), and at least 1 completed employability profile

How This Ties to Life After High School

Course selection supports post-secondary success

- College and university readiness
- Career and technical pathways
- Workforce skills
- Military preparation
- Dual-credit opportunities

Today's choices open tomorrow's doors.

What Is the Course Catalog?

The Course Catalog is the roadmap:

It includes:

- Graduation requirements
- Core academic courses
- Electives and enrichment options
- Career and technical pathways
- College-level and dual-enrollment opportunities

[BMHS Course Catalog 2026-2027](#)

Understanding Course Levels

Not all courses look the same—and that’s intentional

- Regents-level courses
- General-level courses
- Honors and accelerated options
- Advanced Placement (AP)
- Dual enrollment / HVCC courses
- Electives

The “right fit” matters more than the label.

Art Electives

Hands-on learning at its best!



Music Electives

- Senior High Band–Every other day for a full year (.5 credits)
- Senior High Chorus–Every other day for a full year (.5 credits)
- Music Appreciation–Every day for a full year (1 credit)

Electives with Prerequisites

- Jazz Band–Every other day for a full year (.5 credits)
 - *Must be able to read music*
- Chamber Choir–Every other day for a full year (.5 credits)
 - *Must audition/Cap of 16 students*
- AP Music Theory–Every day for a full year (1 credits)
 - *Must have a prior year in either band or chorus; able to read music*

Music Electives



Tech Electives



Warren Von Schilgen

Berlin High School
Class of 2025

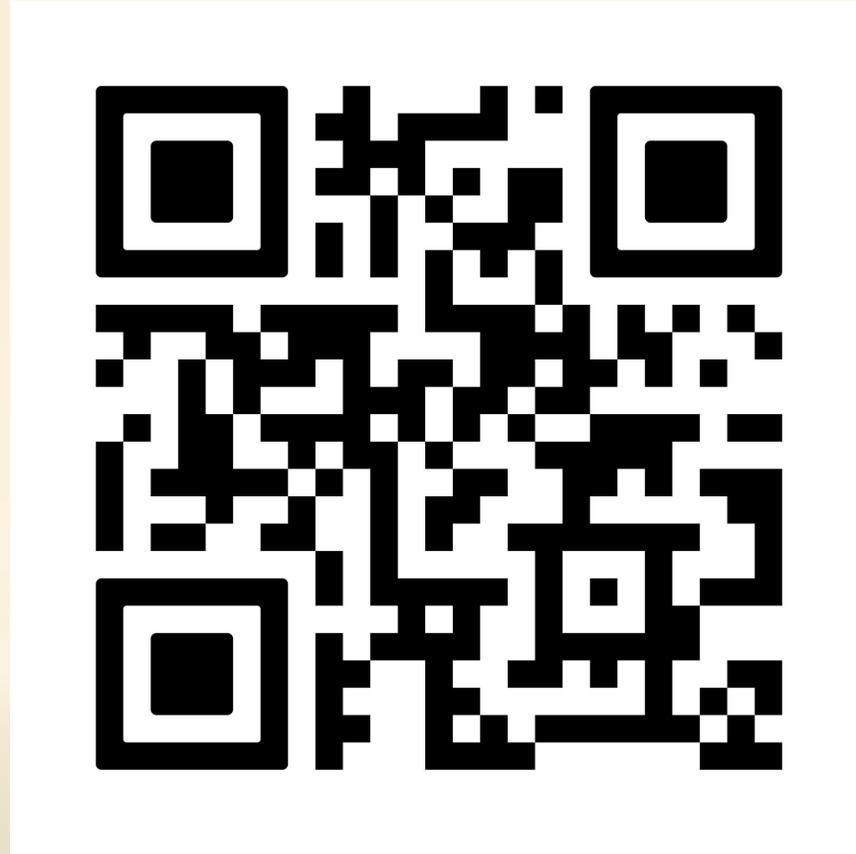
Technology Education
&
Computer Science

High School Electives
Description

Tech Electives

Engineering Design & Development Capstone (Drone Soccer)

- For more information about our new tech course, check out this [link](#) or scan the QR code



<https://youtu.be/cEmgwpaiNjw?feature=shared>

Phys Ed & Health Electives

Grades 9–12: Traditional PE

Grades 10 (with recommendation); 11–12:

- Sports PE
- Strength and Conditioning
- Fitness

Responding to Emergencies

- For students 16 years of age and older
- ½ year commitment (Every other day for a year)
- For students who are interested in helping their community as well as health and/or medical fields



Social Studies Electives

WWII



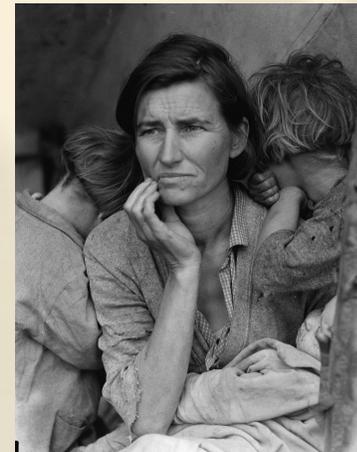
US History: Conflict & Compromise



Cold War



20th Century US History through media



Science Electives

Marine Biology: Full year elective with lab focuses on marine animal husbandry and biodiversity.

Course highlights:

- Learn to setup and care for saltwater aquariums.
- Grow sharks, jellyfish, corals and more
- Trips to local aquariums and aquaculture facilities

Environmental Science (SUNY)



Math Electives

Consumer Math

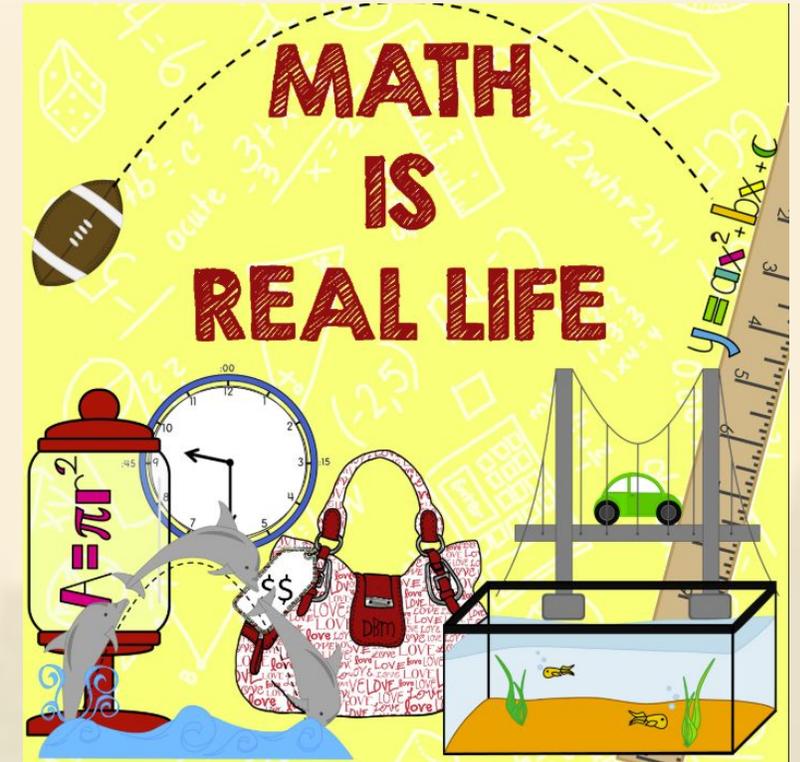


Siena Math

Numbers, Logic, Chance, and Change



Math in Society



HVCC Pre -Calc / Calc



Why Family–Counselor Collaboration Matters

Students succeed when adults work together:

- Families know their child best
- Counselors understand graduation requirements and pathways
- Teachers provide academic insight
- Collaboration ensures:
 - Appropriate course rigor
 - Balanced workloads
 - Alignment with student goals

How Families Can Support the Process

What we ask of families:

- Review the [Course Catalog](#) with your student(s)
- Ask questions and encourage reflection
- Attend information sessions
- Communicate with counselors and teachers
- Support your child's goals—not comparisons

Role of the School Counselor

How counselors support students and families:

- Academic planning and graduation tracking
- College, career, and post-secondary planning
- Individual/small group counseling and ongoing support
- Social Emotional Support and Learning Opportunities
- Problem-Solving with Staff and Students
- Plus snacks!

Avoiding Common Course Selection Pitfalls

What we encourage students and families to avoid:

- Choosing courses based only on friends
- Overloading schedules without balance
- Avoiding challenge out of fear
- Assuming “harder is always better”

Choosing with intentionality is important

What's Next?

Student conversations continue

- *Counselors and students work together to align interests, goals, and pathways.*

Thoughtful course planning and submission

- *Requests reflect readiness, opportunity, and long-term success.*

Schedules refined with purpose

- *Adjustments are made intentionally to support each learner.*

Ongoing communication and partnership

- *Students and families stay informed every step of the way.*

We remain committed to every student—through every decision.

Thank You

Thank you for Supporting Mountaineer Success

- Every conversation, every question, and every decision moves our Mountaineers forward.
- When we work together, our students thrive today and lead tomorrow.
- Together We Rise — Questions Welcome



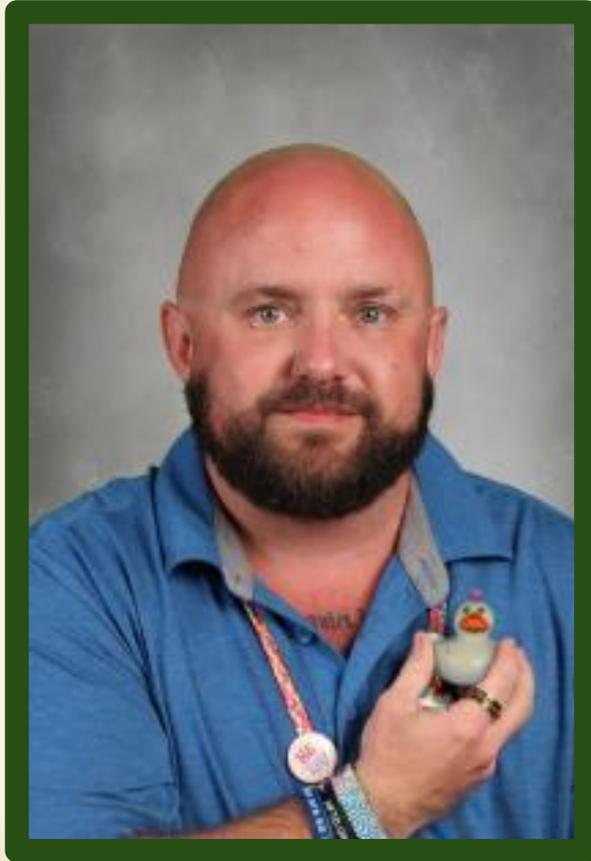
Questions?

Please submit your questions to the QR Code below:



<https://forms.gle/5GFuHFQAubKFjzAh8>

Please Reach Out!



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