



Bay City Academy

High School Course Catalog

2025 – 2026

Michigan High School Graduation Requirements (18 Credits)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) – 4 Credits	Page 2
• Proficiency in State Content Standards for ELA (4 credits)	
MATHEMATICS – 4 Credits	Page 4
• Proficiency in State Content Standards for Mathematics (3 credits); and	
• Proficiency in district approved 4th Mathematics credit options (1 credit) (Student MUST have a Math experience in their final year of high school.)	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH – 1 Credit	Page 7
• Proficiency in State Content Standards for Physical Education and Health (1 credit); or	
• Proficiency with State Content Standards for Health (1/2 credit) and district approved extra-curricular activities involving physical activities (1/2 credit).	
SCIENCE – 3 Credits	Page 8
• Proficiency in State Content Standards for Science (3 credits); or	
• Beginning with the Class of 2015: Proficiency in some State Content Standards for Science (2 credits) and completion of a Department approved formal Career and Technical Education (CTE) program (1 credit).	
SOCIAL STUDIES – 3 Credits	Page 9
• Proficiency in State Content Standards for Social Studies (3 credits).	
VISUAL, PERFORMING, AND APPLIED ARTS – 1 Credit	Page 10
• Proficiency in State Content Standards for Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts (1 credit).	
WORLD LANGUAGE – 2 Credits	Page 11
• Formal coursework or an equivalent learning experience in Grades K-12 (2 credits); or	
• Formal coursework or an equivalent learning experience in Grades K-12 (1 credit) and completion of a Department approved formal Career and Technical Education program or an additional visual, performing, and applied arts credit (1 credit).	
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ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) – 4 Credits

English 9

2 Semesters

In English 9, students will explore a variety of literary genres: novels, short stories, poetry, and drama. They will learn to cite strong textual evidence to support their analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. This course will focus on understanding themes; how they develop over the course of a text, examining how complex characters evolve and interact. Students will analyze the meaning of words, phrases, and figurative language, working to understand how an author's word choices impact the tone and meaning of the text.

English 10

2 Semesters

English 10 builds on the skills learned in English 9, with a deeper dive into both literature and informational texts. Students will continue to cite strong textual evidence, but will also focus on determining the development of central ideas and themes over the course of a text. They will analyze how authors structure their works, including the use of pacing and flashbacks, to create effects like mystery and tension. Students will also compare how different artistic mediums treat the same subject or scene in addition to how authors draw on and transform source material.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 9

English 11

2 Semesters

In English 11, students will further refine their reading, writing, and analytical skills by engaging with more complex texts and ideas. They will explore both literature and informational texts, focusing on key ideas and details, as well as the craft and structure of the works they read. Students will learn to integrate knowledge and ideas from various sources, analyzing how different texts approach similar themes or topics. Writing assignments will include argumentative, informative, and narrative texts, with an emphasis on producing clear and coherent writing that is well-organized and appropriate for different purposes and audiences. Research projects will encourage students to gather, evaluate, and synthesize information from multiple sources. Additionally, students will develop their speaking and listening skills through presentations and collaborative discussions.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 10

English 12

2 Semesters

English 12 is designed to prepare students for college-level reading, writing, and critical thinking. Students will delve into advanced literature and informational texts, honing their ability to analyze key ideas, authorial craft, and the integration of knowledge and ideas across different works. They will tackle complex writing tasks, producing well-structured arguments, informative texts, and narratives that demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of their topics. Emphasis will be placed on the production and distribution of writing, ensuring students can effectively communicate their ideas in various formats. Research projects will challenge students to conduct thorough investigations, present their findings, and draw insightful conclusions. Speaking and listening activities will further enhance their ability to collaborate and present information clearly. Throughout the course, students will focus on mastering the conventions of standard English, expanding their vocabulary, and using language effectively in both written and spoken forms.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 11

MATHEMATICS – 4 Credits

Algebra 1

Grade 9 - 2 semesters

In Algebra, students will develop a strong foundation in mathematical concepts and skills that are essential for higher-level math courses. Topics covered include solving linear equations and inequalities, graphing linear functions, working with polynomials, and exploring quadratic functions. Students will also learn to interpret and analyze data, and apply algebraic concepts to real-world problems. The course emphasizes critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Algebra 1 Honors

Grade 9 - 2 semesters

In Honors Algebra 1, students will build an advanced foundation in mathematical concepts and skills essential for higher-level math courses. This course covers topics such as solving and interpreting complex linear equations and inequalities, graphing and analyzing linear and quadratic functions, and working with polynomials in depth. Students will also engage in rigorous data analysis and apply algebraic concepts to a variety of challenging real-world problems. The course places a strong emphasis on critical thinking, advanced problem-solving, and mathematical reasoning, preparing students for future academic success in mathematics.

Note: Eligibility for honors courses are based on teacher recommendations.

Geometry

Grade 10 - 2 Semesters

Geometry focuses on the properties and relationships of geometric figures in two and three dimensions. Students will explore concepts such as congruence, similarity, transformations, and the Pythagorean theorem. They will also study the properties of circles, triangles, and polygons, as well as learn to calculate the area, surface area, and volume of various shapes. Through hands-on activities and real-world applications, students will develop spatial reasoning and logical thinking skills.

Geometry Honors

Grade 10 - 2 Semesters

Geometry focuses on the properties and relationships of geometric figures in two and three dimensions. Students will explore concepts such as congruence, similarity, transformations, and

the Pythagorean theorem. They will also study the properties of circles, triangles, and polygons, as well as learn to calculate the area, surface area, and volume of various shapes. Through hands-on activities and real-world applications, students will develop spatial reasoning and logical thinking skills.

Note: Eligibility for honors courses are based on teacher recommendations.

Applied Mathematics

Grade 11 – 2 Semesters

Applied Mathematics focuses on practical mathematical concepts used in everyday life and the workplace. Students will explore topics such as financial literacy, measurement, data analysis, probability, and proportional reasoning. They will learn to solve real-world problems involving budgeting, taxes, loans, and statistics. Through hands-on activities and relevant applications, students will develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills that prepare them for post-secondary education, careers, and responsible personal decision-making.

Algebra 2 Honors

Grade 11 - 2 Semesters

In Honors Algebra II, students will extend their understanding from Algebra and Geometry to explore more advanced algebraic concepts. The course covers complex numbers, exponential and logarithmic functions, and conic sections with greater depth. Students will also study sequences and series, probability and statistics, and engage with foundational trigonometry. Emphasis is placed on applying algebraic principles to solve real-world problems and utilizing technology to deepen their comprehension and analytical skills. The course challenges students with complex problems and prepares them for advanced mathematical study.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 1.

Note: Eligibility for honors courses are based on teacher recommendations.

Personal Finance

Grade 12 - 2 semesters

Personal Finance, using the Ramsey Education Curriculum, equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed financial decisions. Topics include budgeting, saving, investing, credit and debt management, and understanding insurance and taxes. Students will learn practical skills such as how to create a budget, manage a checking account, and plan for major financial goals. Through engaging activities and real-world scenarios,

students will gain a solid foundation in personal finance, preparing them for financial independence and success in their future careers.

Calculus and Finance

Grade 12 - 2 semesters

The Calculus and Personal Finance Combination course offers a unique blend of advanced mathematical concepts and practical financial literacy. In the Calculus portion, students will study limits, derivatives, integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, applying these concepts to solve real-world problems. Simultaneously, the Personal Finance segment, based on the Ramsey Education Curriculum, will cover essential financial topics such as budgeting, investing, credit management, and retirement planning. This integrated approach allows students to see the connections between mathematical theory and financial practice, equipping them with the skills needed for both academic and personal success.

Note: Eligibility for this course is based on teacher recommendation.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH – 1 Credit

Physical Education

Grade 9 - 1 Semester

This mandatory year-long course combines physical education with health education to promote overall well-being. Students will develop and refine their motor skills through a variety of physical activities, including individual-performance tasks, games, and outdoor pursuits. They will gain competency in health-related fitness activities, applying principles like force, motion, and rotation to improve performance and create personalized fitness plans.

In addition to physical activity, students will explore key health topics such as nutrition, exercise, and making informed food choices. The course addresses the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, while teaching skills to resist peer pressure. Students will learn about safety, including strategies to handle bullying and violence, as well as ways to seek help when needed. The curriculum also emphasizes emotional health, relationship building, and responsible decision-making. Finally, students will understand the importance of personal health habits such as illness prevention, sleep, and basic first aid.

Together, these lessons equip students with the knowledge and skills to lead a healthy, active lifestyle and make positive choices for their physical and mental well-being.

SCIENCE – 3 Credits

Physical Science

Grade 9 - 2 Semesters

The study of Earth is meant to provide an in-depth understanding of our planet and its place in the universe. Topics include the basic structure of Earth, rock formation, plate tectonics, and the dynamic forces that shape the planet, such as volcanic and seismic activity. Students will also study Earth's water, atmosphere, and natural resources, as well as the impact of human activity on the environment. As climate change and energy conservation become increasingly important, this course emphasizes the need to understand the physical characteristics of Earth and how they compare to other planets in our solar system.

Biology

Grade 10 - 2 Semesters

Biology introduces students to the study of living organisms and their environments. The course covers the structure and function of DNA and how it determines the proteins essential for life. Students will learn about the hierarchical organization of cells in multicellular organisms and the feedback mechanisms that maintain homeostasis. Key topics include photosynthesis and cellular respiration, the cycling of matter and energy in ecosystems, and the principles of genetics and evolution. Through hands-on investigations and model-building, students will develop a deep understanding of how living systems operate and interact with their surroundings.

Chemistry

Grade 12 - 2 Semesters

Chemistry focuses on the study of matter and its changes, providing students with a solid understanding of chemical reactions, energy, and the properties of elements. Students will learn to use the periodic table to predict element properties and apply their knowledge to explain various chemical reactions. They will investigate how energy is absorbed or released during these reactions and explore the principles behind reaction rates. The course also covers the conservation of mass and the role of energy in chemical processes. Through experiments and problem-solving activities, students will gain practical skills and a deep understanding of the chemical principles that govern our world.

SOCIAL STUDIES – 3 Credits

World History

Grades 9 - 2 Semesters

This course provides an overview of global history. Students will explore significant cultural, economic, political, and social developments across various regions of the world. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the connections and interactions between different societies and the impact of historical events on the present day. The curriculum ensures that students develop critical thinking skills and a deep understanding of global interdependence.

US History

Grades 10 - 2 Semesters

US History offers an in-depth examination of the American past, from the pre-Columbian era to the present. Students will analyze key events, figures, and movements that have shaped the nation, including the founding principles, major wars, social transformations, and political changes. This course promotes an understanding of the complexities of the American experience and fostering the skills necessary to become informed and engaged citizens.

Economics

Grade 11 - 1 Semester

Economics introduces students to the principles of micro and macroeconomics, emphasizing the application of economic theories to real-world situations. Topics covered include supply and demand, market structures, the role of government in the economy, and global economic interactions. Course objectives include developing students' analytical skills and economic literacy, preparing them to make informed decisions as consumers, workers, and citizens in a complex economic environment.

Civics

Grade 11 - 1 Semester

In this course, students will study the foundations and functions of government, focusing on the United States political system. Topics include the Constitution, the branches of government, the electoral process, and the role of citizens in a democracy. The curriculum aims to cultivate informed, responsible participants in civic life, encouraging students to engage with contemporary issues, and understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

VISUAL, PERFORMING, AND APPLIED ARTS – 1 Credit

Art

1 or 2 Semester

Open to Grades 9-10

In this course, students will explore the visual arts by using various materials and tools to create their own artwork. They will learn to solve creative problems, use different techniques to communicate their ideas, and present their finished pieces, focusing on safely managing and using art materials. Throughout the course, students will develop and refine their artistic skills, create innovative works of art, and reflect on their creative processes. They will analyze and evaluate different artworks, understand the historical and cultural contexts of art, and recognize how art connects to everyday life.

Music Theater

Grades 9 - 12

2 Semesters

In this course, students will apply their skills and knowledge to the realm of musical theater, learning to use technical elements like lighting, color, electricity, paint, and makeup to enhance their performances. Collaboration will be key as students create functional scenery, props, lighting, sound, costumes, and makeup. They will also develop stage management, promotional, and business plans. Students will analyze and evaluate art by exploring character dimensions across genres, comparing acting techniques, and examining dramatic texts from cultural and historical perspectives. Students will also make production choices, understand the arts' role in various contexts, and integrate multiple arts and media in their presentations.

Our students perform at least two productions a year and have the opportunity to compete, providing a comprehensive and practical experience in musical theater.

Grade Requirement: Because of the extensive time commitment this class takes, students must be passing all of other classes to maintain a spot in this class.

WORLD LANGUAGE – 2 Credits

World Language 1

Grade 10

2 Semesters

In World Language 1, students are introduced to a new language and develop beginning-level proficiency in speaking, reading, writing, and listening. Exploring cultural traditions and learning about the people and customs of countries where the language is spoken are key components of this course. Foods, music, and engaging educational activities are incorporated to enrich cultural understanding, support language learning, and promote retention.

World Language 2

Grades 11-12

2 Semesters

This course is a continuation of World Language 1. Students will build on their vocabulary and basic grammar skills, with increased emphasis on speaking, reading, and writing. Cultural traditions and learning about the people and customs of countries where the language is spoken remain important parts of the curriculum. Foods, music, and interactive activities are used to deepen cultural understanding, support language development, and improve retention.

Prerequisite: World Language 1

CAREER CENTER

Grades 11 and 12 - 2 Semesters

With over 23 programs available, students in grades 11 and 12 who are caught up on all credits can attend the Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center, where they earn academic credits alongside skilled trades training. Students have the opportunity to learn a trade, have work-based learning experiences, earn credits for Delta College or Davenport University in certain programs, and earn certificates that will apply to jobs after graduation. For more information about the program, students and parents can consult our college and career counselor or visit baisd.net.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Grades 11 and 12 - 1 or 2 Semesters

Dual Enrollment allows students who are currently excelling in their classes to enroll online at Delta College or Lake State Superior University, providing them with the opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school. BCA covers the cost of tuition, fees, and books, up to the state minimum. Students must meet certain academic criteria. For more information contact our college and career counselor.

EARLY MIDDLE COLLEGE - EDGE

Grades 11, 12, and 1 additional year - 3 year program

Students have the opportunity to earn an associates degree, tuition-free, one year post high school through Delta College or Davenport University, depending on the degree. This program involves students participating in certain career center classes for college credit and/or taking classes directly through Delta College during their junior and senior year. Students participating in this program are required to sign up for it by fall of their junior year. Students must meet certain academic criteria. For more information contact our college and career counselor.

CREDIT RECOVERY - MATH

Grades 9 - 12

Credit recovery for math is designed for students who have previously failed courses such as Algebra, Algebra 2, Geometry, Finance, and Calculus, which are required for graduation. This program provides an opportunity to regain academic credit and stay on track for their diploma. Students will revisit key mathematical concepts and skills, address their learning gaps, and demonstrate mastery in subjects like algebraic equations, geometric proofs, financial literacy, and calculus principles. The course emphasizes self-paced learning and flexibility, allowing students to meet graduation requirements while building a stronger foundation for future academic and career success.

CREDIT RECOVERY - SOCIAL STUDIES

Grades 9 - 12

Credit recovery for high school social studies is designed for students who have previously failed courses such as Civics, Economics, U.S. History, and World History, which are required for graduation. This program offers an opportunity to regain academic credit and stay on track for their diploma. Students will revisit key concepts and skills in areas such as government, economic systems, historical events, and global interactions, while addressing any learning gaps. The course emphasizes self-paced learning and flexibility, allowing students to meet graduation requirements and develop a deeper understanding of the social, political, and economic forces shaping the world today.

CREDIT RECOVERY - SCIENCE

Grades 9 - 12

Credit recovery for high school science is designed for students who have previously failed courses such as Biology, Earth Science, and Chemistry, which are required for graduation. This program provides an opportunity to regain academic credit and stay on track for their diploma. Students will revisit key scientific concepts and skills, addressing gaps in areas such as cellular biology, geological processes, and chemical reactions. The course emphasizes self-paced learning and flexibility, allowing students to fulfill their graduation requirements while building a stronger foundation in scientific principles for future academic and career success.

CREDIT RECOVERY - English

Grades 9 - 12

Credit recovery for high school English is designed for students who have previously failed courses required for graduation, such as English 9, 10, 11, and 12. This program offers an opportunity to regain academic credit and stay on track for their diploma. Students will revisit key language arts concepts and skills, such as reading comprehension, literary analysis,

grammar, writing, and communication, while addressing any learning gaps. The course emphasizes self-paced learning and flexibility, allowing students to fulfill their graduation requirements while strengthening their foundation in English for future academic and career success.