



*Blue Ridge
Educational Center
Unlocking Learning Potential*

Blue Ridge Educational Center

Program of Studies

2020-2021

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<http://www.blueridgeeducation.org>

BREC offers courses in the 6th through 12th grades, as described below. As students with Individual Education Plans (IEP), Individual Instruction Plans (IIP), and 504 Plans are placed by Local Educational Agencies (LEA), BREC aligns the curriculum to the LEA's curriculum wherever possible to ensure that transitions to a less restrictive environment are as seamless as possible.

Our core courses and electives align with the Virginia Standards of Learning and Curriculum Framework. Our low teacher-to-student ratio allows us to differentiate course material in order to meet the needs of individual students and effectively address goals and objectives respective to each student's educational plan.

Graduation requirements for our students align with each student's placing school division requirements. Our academic team works closely with case managers and guidance counselors to ensure that each student is successful with required coursework, SOL tests, and other conditions necessary for receiving a diploma from their placing school division.

Please refer to each individual course syllabus for more information regarding student expectations, grading, and curriculum.

Art

Art and Music I: Art and Music Explorations (Grades 9-12) 1 credit

Emphasizes the recognition of visual arts and musical content, concepts, and skills to create, discuss, and understand original works of art. The standards represent a thematic approach to visual and musical communication and production, cultural context, history, judgment and criticism, and aesthetics through which students will develop understanding and appreciation for the visual arts and music.

Art and Music II: Intermediate (Grades 10-12) 1 credit

Intermediate extends and refines investigation and responses to the visual arts and music. The standards emphasize the content, concepts, and skills involved in the creation of original works of art. The standards introduce a chronological approach to musical and visual communication and production, cultural context and history, judgment and criticism, and aesthetics that enhance student understanding of the ways in which art and music function within a multicultural society.

Art and Music Exploratory 1 (Grades 6-8)

Emphasizes the recognition of visual arts and musical content, concepts, and skills to create, discuss, and understand original works of art. The standards represent a thematic approach to visual and musical communication and production, cultural context, history, judgment and criticism, and aesthetics through which students will develop understanding and appreciation for the visual arts and music.

Art and Music Exploratory 2 (Grades 6-8)

Intermediate extends and refines investigation and responses to the visual arts and music. The standards emphasize the content, concepts, and skills involved in the creation of original works of art. The standards introduce a chronological approach to musical and visual communication and production, cultural context and history, judgment and criticism, and aesthetics that enhance student understanding of the ways in which art and music function within a multicultural society.

Crafts as Art (Grades 9-12) 1 credit

A hands-on class with emphasis on techniques and production (i.e., origami, basketry, weaving, calligraphy, basic jewelry, pottery, quilting and paper cutting).

Graphic Arts (Grade 8)

Graphic Arts (Grades 9-12) 1 credit

Students will explore print layout, typography, color theory, digital imaging and graphic design using a variety of traditional and electronic media. Students will create original projects culminating in a student-created web portfolio (and resume for Grades 9-12). Students will be graded on vocabulary and concepts as well as on mastery of skills.

Business, Technology and Human Services/Development

Keyboarding Exploratory (Grade 6)

A middle school course designed for students to develop and enhance touch skills for entering alphabetic, numeric and symbol information with the use of a keyboard. Students will compose and produce personal, educational and professional documents. Students are assessed on their understanding of and participation in class assignments.

Keyboarding/Computer Solutions (Grades 7 & 8)

In this course, students use the computer as a problem-solving tool to complete a variety of projects. Basic touch keyboarding instruction is provided early in this semester course. Students are expected to actively participate in all activities. Students are assessed on their understanding of and participation in class assignments.

Keyboarding (Grades 9-12) .5 credit

Develop and enhance touch skills for entering alphabetic, numeric and symbol information on a keyboard; compose and produce personal, educational and professional documents. Students are expected to actively participate in all activities. Students are assessed on their understanding of and participation in class assignments.

Family and Consumer Sciences Exploratory 1 (Grade 6)

This course provides a foundation for managing individual, family, career, and community roles and responsibilities. In this course, students focus on areas of individual growth such as person safety and health. They also explore and practice financial management, clothing maintenance, food preparation, positive and caring relationships with others, and self-assessment as related to career exploration. Students apply problem-solving and leadership skills as they progress through the course. English, social sciences, fine arts, and technology

are integrated throughout the course. Students will learn the necessary skills to be more responsible, more respectful and to make better decisions. In addition to quizzes and tests, special projects are an integral part of student assessment.

Family and Consumer Sciences Exploratory II (Grade 7)

Prerequisite: Family and Consumer Sciences Exploratory I

This is a middle school course that provides a foundation for managing individual family, work, and community roles and responsibilities. Student focus on their individual development as well as their relationships and roles within the family unit. They learn how to maintain their living and personal environments and to use nutrition and wellness practices. Students also apply consumer and family resources, develop textile, fashion, and apparel concepts, and explore careers related to Family and Consumer Sciences. Time is also provided for early childhood education concepts and leadership skills. Students will learn the necessary skills to be more responsible, more respectful and to make better decisions. In addition to quizzes and tests, special projects are an integral part of student assessment.

Family and Consumer Sciences I - Development (VA course 8222) (Grades 9-12)

1 credit

This course provides a foundation for management of individual, family, work, and community roles and responsibilities. Expectations: Students will explore concepts and practice skills related to problem solving, leadership, interpersonal relationships, ethical practices, career interests, environmental issues, and high-quality work. Mathematics, science, language, social sciences, fine arts, and technology are integrated throughout the course.

Family and Consumer Sciences II - Preparation (VA course 8224) (Grades 10-12)

1 credit

This course provides a foundation for management of individual, family, work, and community roles and responsibilities. Expectations: Students will explore concepts and practice skills related to problem solving, leadership, interpersonal relationships, ethical practices, career interests, environmental issues, and high-quality work. Mathematics, science, language, social sciences, fine arts, and technology are integrated throughout the course.

Economics and Personal Finance (Grades 9-12) 1 Credit

A new state requirement for all students entering ninth grade for the first time in 2013-14: must earn a board-approved career and technical education credential to graduate with a standard

diploma. As a requirement of the course, students will take a state approved industry credential.

Instruction in economics and personal finance prepares students to function effectively as consumers, savers, investors, entrepreneurs, and active citizens. Students learn how economies and markets operate and how the United States' economy is interconnected with the global economy. On a personal level, students learn that their own human capital (knowledge and skills) is their most valuable resource. Students are expected to complete assignments and assessments for mastery learning.

Life Skills I (Grades 7-8) and (Grades 9-12) 1 credit

Life Skills part I course is divided into four primary areas: 1) financial literacy and planning, 2) household management, cleaning and maintenance, 3) cooking, sewing and shop, and 4) "Civility" through speech and actions, healthy habits and time management. This course provides a foundation for management of individual, family, and community roles and responsibilities. Students will explore concepts through active learning.

Life Skills II (Grades 11-12) 1 credit

Life Skills part II course focuses on independent living skills for young people who are in need of learning, enhancing, or supporting life skills to effectively transition into adulthood. The course will focus on 7 core areas: Career Preparation, Education, Health and Nutrition, Housing and Home Management, Social Skills, Risk Prevention, and Money Management. Students will explore concepts through active learning.

Foreign Language (*virtual courses only during the 2020-2021 school year*).

French I (Grades 8–12) 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Grade of “B” or higher in English

This course introduces the French language and the culture of French speaking countries. Students are taught basic listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. The course includes the study of speech patterns, pronunciation, vocabulary and grammatical structure. Students are expected to use the French language in their daily interactions with their teacher and fellow classmates. Students must also demonstrate mastery through oral and written examinations that take place throughout the semester.

French II (Grades 9–12) 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Grade of “C” or higher in French I

French II is a continuation of the communication skills established in Level I with a focus on the larger cultural/linguistic community, geography, and description of past events. In addition, Level II includes more complex grammatical structures and increased vocabulary development through conversation and dialogues in the target language. Students are expected to expand their knowledge of the French language by applying all structures taught throughout the course. Students must also demonstrate mastery through oral and written examinations that take place throughout the semester.

French III (Grades 10–12) 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Grade of “C” or higher in French II

French III is an expansion of the fundamentals learned in Levels I and II of the target language. Emphasis is placed on fluency through discourse in contemporary social issues. Students further explore the geography and culture of countries where the language is spoken. Students in French III are expected to develop greater fluency in the spoken language and increased vocabulary through supplementary readings and listening activities. Students research topics of interest and prepare oral and written reports, and projects in the target language. Students must also demonstrate mastery through oral and written examinations that take place throughout the semester.

Spanish I (Grades 8-12) 1 credit

Students will learn the fundamentals of the Spanish language. In addition, students will study the history, civilizations, and culture of countries where the language is spoken. Students must also demonstrate mastery through oral and written examinations that take place throughout the semester. Students must

demonstrate mastery through oral and written examinations.

Spanish II (Grades 9-12) 1 credit

Prerequisite: Grade of "C" or higher in Spanish I.

Students will expand on the knowledge learned in Spanish I. The course continues to foster interest in the language, culture, civilization, and heritage of Spain, Mexico, and South America. Students will also be exposed to more complex syntax, additional vocabulary, and listening and speaking activities which will be fostered through conversations in the target language. Students must demonstrate mastery through oral and written examinations.

Spanish III (Grades 10-12) 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Grade of "C" or higher in Spanish II.

This course refines the four basic language skills through grammar and studies of history, culture, and literature of Spain and Latin America. Students will explore more of the language and culture through reading and viewing, and emphasis will be placed on more abstract grammatical concepts. Students in Spanish III are expected to develop greater fluency in the spoken language and increased vocabulary through supplementary readings and listening activities. Students research topics of interest and prepare oral and written reports, and projects in the target language. Students must demonstrate mastery through oral and written examinations.

Health/Physical Education

Physical Education (Grade 6)

Students will participate in a variety of movement experiences to develop fundamental skills including: motor skill development, anatomical basis of movement, fitness planning, social development and energy balance.

Physical Education (Grade 7)

Students will participate in a variety of movement experiences to develop fundamental skills including: motor skill development, anatomical basis of movement, fitness planning, social development and energy balance.

Physical Education (Grade 8)

Students will participate in a variety of movement experiences to develop fundamental skills including: motor skill development, team sports, anatomical basis of movement, fitness planning, social development and energy balance.

Physical/Health Education (Grade 9) 1 credit

Required class for graduation. Students will participate in a variety of movement experiences to develop fundamental skills including: motor skill development, team sports, anatomical basis of movement, fitness planning, social development and energy balance.

Physical/Health Education (Grade 10) 1 credit

Required class for graduation. Students will participate in a variety of movement experiences to develop fundamental skills including: motor skill development, anatomical basis of movement, fitness planning, team activities, social development and energy balance.

Driver's Education

An online Driver's Education class through VADETS; Pass/Fail; green card issued upon successful completion.

Affective Education (Grades 6-8) and Grades (9-12) 1 credit

In this course, students will learn the importance of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in everyday life. Students will examine the five SEL competencies: self-awareness, self-management, growth mindset, self-efficacy, and social awareness. Throughout the course, students will develop their own understanding of each of these competencies and then apply this knowledge in activities and discussions that reflect understanding.

Language Arts

English (Grade 6) SOL Test

Reading, English grammar, composition and spelling.

English (Grade 7) SOL Test

Literature, English grammar, composition and spelling.

English (Grade 8) SOL Test

Concentrates on the areas of oral language, reading/literature, writing, and research.

English (Grade 9) 1 credit

Grammar, composition, and literature; oral and written communication including reading, writing, listening, speaking, vocabulary, and using reference material and

sources.

English (Grade 10) 1 credit

Builds on the skills needed in oral and written communication, correct grammar usage, reading comprehension, interpretation and appreciation of literature; literature relates to the study of world history.

English (Grade 11) 1 credit SOL Test

Emphasis on the writing of effective sentences, paragraphs, research paper, essays, and a resume; literature is a study of the development of American literature and culture.

English (Grade 12) 1 credit

Critical study of the history of British literature and a review of grammar and composition skills; writing includes literary criticism, expository, creative and technical writing.

Mythology (Grades 10-12) 1 credit

Students will examine myths from various cultures (including, but not limited to, Greco-Roman, Indian, African, Native American, Norse, Celtic, Asian, Central and South American, and Middle Eastern cultures). Students will extend their understanding of mythology's influence in contemporary American culture and will construct a theory of American mythology.

Mathematics

Math (Grade 6) SOL Test

Review of basic math skills; additionally the skills needed for all sixth grade math SOLs are studied.

Math (Grade 7) SOL Test

Whole numbers, decimals, fractions, percents, graphing, geometry, problem solving, metric and standard measurements and algebraic concepts.

Math (Grade 8) SOL Test

Basic skills in whole numbers, decimals and fractions, many pre-algebra concepts including evaluating expressions, solving and graphing linear equations, and working with formulas; probability, statistics, and an introduction to basic geometry and spatial relationships.

Algebra I (Grade 8-10) 1 credit SOL Test

Systematic methods for representing mathematical relationships and analyzing change; develop facility with the concepts and symbols of algebra, the structures that govern the manipulation of the symbols, and how the symbols can be used to record ideas and events; explore patterns that are linear and quadratic and develop the notion of families of functions; use manipulatives, graphing calculators, and other applications to develop concepts and attach meaning to abstract ideas. (Note: This course may be taken in two parts over two years as Algebra I Part 1 and Algebra I Part 2.)

Geometry (Grades 9-12) 1 credit SOL Test

This course is the study of plane and space geometry. Emphasis is placed on learning orderly, logical arguments in a moderately rigorous geometry. Prerequisite: Algebra I with a grade of "C" or better is required.

Algebra, Functions and Data Analysis (grades 10-12) 1 credit

This course studies algebraic functions within the context of mathematical models and data analysis. Probability and experimental design will be utilized. Data will be generated from practical sources, including student generated data.

Algebra II (Grades 9-12) 1 credit SOL Test

Second year algebra course, including a comprehensive review of elementary algebra, with study of second degree equations and inequalities, systems of complex numbers and functions.

Math Analysis (Grades 11-12) 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra II with a grade of "B" or higher.

This is a pre-calculus course that encompasses topics which grow out of Algebra. Content includes a study of polynomial, logarithmic, exponential, rational, and trigonometric functions. Considerable ability and initiative on the part of the student is assumed.

Math Capstone (Grade 12 only) 1 Credit

Prerequisites: AFDA or Algebra II and have earned at least 2 verified credits in Mathematics

This course is designed for high school seniors who plan to attend college but may not be fully college ready. The course may also support students who meet the same academic requirements but plan to enter the workforce directly after

graduating from high school. Content is designed to give certain students an additional boost for competent and successful entry into college and careers. The course will add to students' preparation for college and the workplace by 1) enhancing skills in number and quantity, functions and algebra, geometry, and statistics and probability; and 2) reinforcing readiness skills and dispositions in adaptability and flexibility, creativity and innovation, leadership, team work, collaboration, and work ethic.

Science

Science (Grade 6)

Study of natural science is undertaken; emphasis on the cell, ecosystems, conservation, earth studies and physical science; topics include electricity, weather, light, sound and basic chemistry.

Science (Grade 7)

The study of living organisms and their environment.

Physical Science (Grade 8) SOL Test

Subjects include physical and chemical changes, sound, light electricity, work, force, and motion.

Earth Science (Grade 9) 1 credit SOL Test

Investigates topics which drive and affect Earth as a system. Topics include geology, astronomy, meteorology, oceanography, energy resources, plate tectonics, and the scientific method.

Biology I (Grades 10-12) 1 credit SOL Test

Detailed study of biological science and understanding of life processes.

Biology II (Grades 11-12) 1 credit

Study of organisms in their environment and the impact of humans in the biosphere. Topics to be studied include populations, ecosystems, biomes, energy resources and development of self-sustainable practices. Students will conduct research into endangered species, biomes, and alternative energy sources.

Chemistry I (Grades 10-12) SOL Test 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I and Geometry with a grade of "C" or better; concurrent enrollment in Algebra II or instructor recommendation.

Chemistry is a rigorous traditional chemistry course. Students study atomic structure and its effects on the reactivity of the elements of the periodic table and the dynamic nature of molecules. Topics are presented using a combination of lectures, readings, group activities, labs, and on-line resources. Students explore chemical principles through inquiry-based activities, experimentation, and quantitative analysis. Topics emphasize connections and the building of skills through a thematic approach. Students that complete all the assignments in a thoughtful manner for this course will be fully prepared to take the SOL.

Social Studies

U.S. History (Grade 6) SOL Test

Study of American history to 1877.

U.S. History (Grade 7) SOL Test

Study of American history from 1877 to the present including western expansion, industrialization and America's interaction with foreign nations; map reading and geography skills are also practiced.

Civics and Economics (Grade 8) SOL Test

Examines the roles citizens play in the political, governmental and economic systems in the United States; examines the constitutions of Virginia and the U/S.; identifies the rights, duties and responsibilities of citizens; and describes the structure and operation of the government at the local, state and national levels.

World History I (Grade 9-12) 1 credit SOL Test

Survey of the history of human civilization before 1500 CE. Geography and the study of major religions will also be examined.

World History II (Grades 10-12) 1 credit SOL Test

Survey of the history of human civilization from 1500 CE to the present.

Virginia and U.S. History (Grade 11-12) 1 credit SOL Test

Survey of the history of Virginia and of the U.S. from Jamestown to the present.

Virginia and U.S. Government (Grade 12) 1 credit

Develop an understanding of the philosophical and constitutional basis of American and Virginia Government and the importance of the individual in a free society.

World Geography & Cultures (Grades 7-8) and (Grades 9-12) 1 credit

Thematic course that enables students to develop an understanding of their world through an examination of a variety of cultures and their interaction with the physical geography of the world. Students will study twenty-three regions of the world with an emphasis on the vast diversity of the human experience and the richness of human culture.

Virtual Virginia Program & APEX

BREC students, in coordination with their LEA, may elect to take a course through Virtual Virginia and/or APEX at BREC. Courses and availability are subject to the respective school divisions and program offerings throughout the school year.