

BCHS SKILLS LAB

Skills Lab is a Title I class designed to help students who may be struggling in their academic classes or may just need the extra time and help. This is a regular class that is graded and is worth ½ credit per semester.

Students qualify for the class based mainly on teacher referrals. When referring, teachers take into consideration grades and ability. Those students who are struggling with academics would certainly be candidates for Skills Lab but teachers also consider students who struggle with organizational skills, have trouble staying focused, are lacking a basic background of knowledge or need a support system to keep them on track.

Teacher referrals are worth 5 points each and are added to a prioritized list that is created at the end of the academic year in preparation for the next school year. Parents and students can also make referrals which are added to the list. Other categories that add points to the prioritized list are semester core class failures and MAPS testing scores. Students can also be referred anytime during the school year. Teachers are encouraged to review their students' progress periodically to identify anyone who may need a referral.

The students who have the most points on the list are then contacted and are *given the option* of entering the class. The class has limited spots so it accepts those students who want to be in the class and want the help. Juniors and seniors require more points to qualify than freshmen and sophomores.

The class maintains a 1 to 3 teacher to student ratio which allows for individual attention and help. The grade is based on participation and responsibility. The first 15 minutes of class period is called enrichment. This time is spent on improving skills in math, reading and English. The rest of the period is spent on studying for tests, getting help with homework and organizing the school day. It is not a study hall – students are required to keep a planner, bring their schoolwork and supplies and be busy with academics all period.

The Title I program director is John English and the Skills Lab teachers are Betty Iverson and Luke Lewis. Please contact them at 683-2361 for more information.