

# Bellows Free Academy

## St. Albans, Vermont



**9th Grade Program of Studies**  
2023-2024

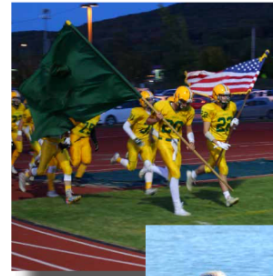


# Welcome

At Bellows Free Academy, we aim to set an example as leaders in academic excellence. Our mission is to ensure every student receives a quality education by providing them with access to a safe, modern, engaging, and innovative learning environment. We shape our students through a rigorous curriculum, an array of extracurricular activities, community involvement, and nearly a century of tradition. Our graduates are prepared to become respectful, ethical and engaged representatives of our local and global communities. We are proud to welcome you to the Bellows Free Academy community.

Academics at BFA are both rigorous and engaging, with curriculum designed to immerse students in the material and promote positive academic growth. All of our academic departments provide a variety of supports to reinforce skills and ensure students succeed in all aspects of their education. All students have weekly access to enrichment periods where they can meet with their teachers or seek assistance with any of their courses. Students are encouraged take advantage of our many Advanced Placement (AP) courses and utilize their two free dual-enrollment vouchers for courses at Community College of Vermont.

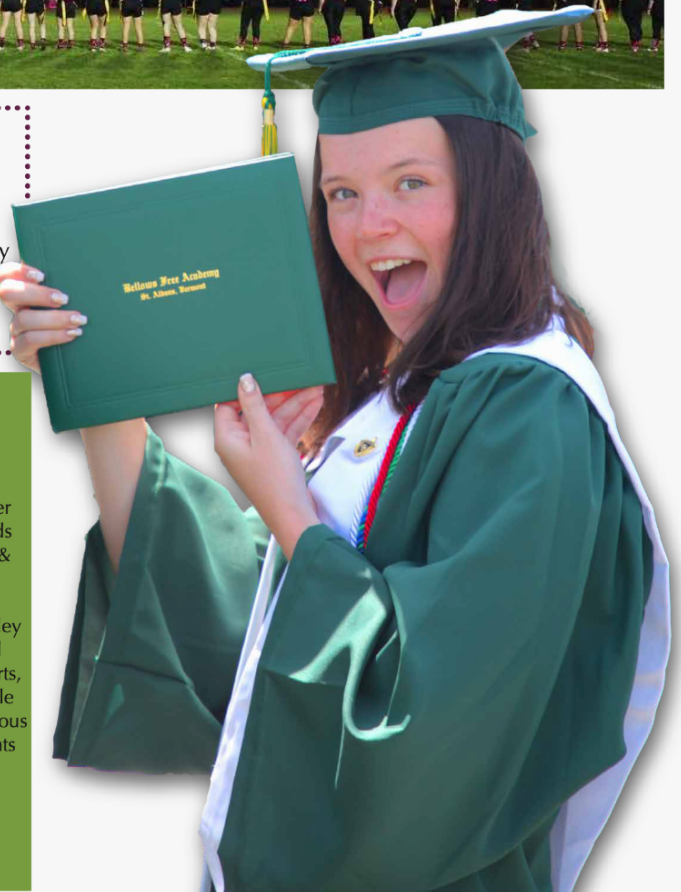
In addition to our community service graduation requirement, Bellows Free Academy offers students numerous opportunities to engage with the public and make a positive name for themselves in our community. Our Flexible Pathways program allows students to gain real-world, for-credit experience in our community through internships and work experiences. Students work throughout the year to help our community through food drives, coat donations, assisting with Operation Happiness, and raising thousands of dollars to battle cancer through our annual Powder Puff football game.



**Each Student  
Assigned Their  
Own Chromebook**

**150+**

BFA proudly offers more courses than any other high school in Franklin County!



**ATHLETIC  
TEAMS:**

**18**

- Football
- Soccer
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Golf
- Lacrosse
- Ice Hockey
- Cross Country
- Track & Field
- Alpine Skiing
- Volleyball
- ...and more!



**VIRTUAL  
HIGH SCHOOL**

Students can access over 250 additional courses through our virtual high school program.

**45**

BFA students utilize over 45 acres of athletic fields at Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center.

Additionally, Collins Perley offers a fully equipped weight room, tennis courts, public skating, a 1.5 mile walking path, and numerous fitness classes for students and the public.



**40+ CLUBS &  
EXTRA-CURRICULARS**

**AVERAGE CLASS SIZE: 16**



# ACADEMIC AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

We remain committed to recognizing and celebrating academic excellence within a proficiency-based system.

## Latin Honors used in the senior year based on cumulative GPA

- Summa Cum Laude: 3.9 GPA or higher
- Magna Cum Laude: 3.7 - 3.89 GPA or higher
- Cum Laude: 3.5 - 3.69 GPA or higher

## Semester High Honor Roll

- All Final Course Scores 3.5 or higher

## Semester Honor Roll

- All Final Course Scores 3.0 or higher



# CLASS STANDING

For promotion to grade 10, students must have attained 5 academic credits.

For promotion to grade 11, students must have attained 11 academic credits.

For promotion to grade 12, students must have attained 17 academic credits.

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English – 4 credits

Mathematics – 3 credits

Science – 3 credits

Social Studies – 3 credits

Physical Education (PE)\* – 1.5 credits

Personal Finance - .5 credit

Arts (Art, Music, Drama, or Dance) \*\* – 1 credit

Health Education – .5 credit

Career Exploration - .5 credit

Electives –at least 7 credits

*\*PE can include 1 credit of Dance.*

*\*\*Dance Class cannot be counted as both PE, and Art.*

*All proficiencies in each course must be met to earn credit for graduation.*



A total of **24 academic credits** are needed to graduate with a BFA diploma and must include the following:

- 10 Hours of Community Service
- Personal Learning Plan

# SAMPLE 9TH GRADE SCHEDULE

Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Writing Workshop	Writing Workshop
Global Citizenship	Global Citizenship
Algebra 1	Algebra 1
Earth Science	Earth Science
PE	Health
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

## 9TH GRADE CORE PROGRAM



### **Algebra I** *(year long- 1 credit)*

Learn the basis for advanced mathematics. Students will learn the language and structure of Algebra I. They will discover how to solve various types of equations arithmetically and graphically, while discovering some real-world applications. Students will experience the world of algebra through class discussions, technology, demonstrations, and online tutorials. Learning will be assessed through performance tasks, traditional assessments, and technological activities.

### **Earth Science** *(year long- 1 credit)*

The Earth is constantly changing! In this class, students will develop and refine their scientific thinking skills (questioning, experimenting, analyzing, explaining and evaluating), while exploring topics within Earth's changing systems, including: Geology, Climate Change and Space. Students will develop these skills through hands-on investigations, projects, reflections, discussions, quizzes and constructed responses. Students will be provided opportunities for practice, feedback from teachers and peers, and revisions to their assignments. Student choice and differentiation accompany most areas of study.

### **Global Citizenship** *(year long- 1 credit)*

Global Citizenship is taught in conjunction with Reading and Writing Workshop. Through this course, students learn to connect themselves to their local community as well as to the world. Students will deepen their own understanding of their place in their community and the broader world by examining their interconnectedness through a historical, geographic, cultural, and economic framework.

### **Writing Workshop** *(year long- 1 credit)*

Reading and Writing Workshop works on the fundamentals of literature and writing. Reading & W W presents ideas and techniques upon which the other English courses are built and covers the following units: essay writing, grammar, speech, vocabulary, short stories, poetry, drama, and the novel. Continuing emphasis is placed on the competencies of speaking, listening, writing, and reading as well as study skills. Student learning will be assessed through a variety of methods. Students are recommended for this course by their sending schools.

*Proficiencies: Reading, Writing, Language, Speaking and Listening.*



# ACCELERATED OPPORTUNITIES



*This learning pathway requires a higher level of student self-direction in order to complete learning opportunities that may exist outside of the scheduled classroom hours; this often allows the pace to move more quickly. Please note that some courses do have a summer assignment prerequisite.*

## **Accelerated Algebra I** (year long- 1 credit)

Learn the basis for advanced mathematics. Students will learn the language and structure of Algebra I. They will discover how to solve various types of equations arithmetically and graphically while discovering some real-world applications. Students will experience the world of algebra through class discussions, technology, demonstrations, and online tutorials. Learning will be assessed through performance tasks, traditional assessments, math folders, Independent Study Projects, and technological activities. *Prerequisite-successful completion of 8th grade math and teacher recommendation.*

## **Accelerated Geometry** (year long- 1 credit)

Where real-life, mathematics and art collide! Students will learn the basics of constructions, transformations, congruence, circles, area, volume, right triangle trigonometry, similarity, and the connections with real life and the art world. Students will experience geometry through hands-on investigations, class discussions, computer software investigations, demonstrations, and online tutorials. Learning will be assessed through projects, performance tasks, traditional assessments, computer activities, Independent Study Projects, and Exploration Tasks. *Prerequisite- successful completion of Algebra I and teacher recommendation.*

## **Accelerated Global Citizenship** (year long- 1 credit)

Accelerated Global Citizenship is a college and career preparatory course for 9th graders. This course is taught in conjunction with Accelerated Writing Workshop. Through this course, students learn to connect themselves to their local community as well as to the world. Students will deepen their own understanding of their place in their community and the broader world by examining their interconnectedness through a historical, geographic, cultural, and economic framework, organizations, and people on a global level. The Accelerated Program requires that students be independent and self-directed learners.

*Prerequisite- students must be recommended by 8th grade teacher and satisfactory completion of summer assignments.*

## **Accelerated Writing Workshop** (year long- 1 credit)

Writing Workshop presents ideas and techniques upon which the other English courses are built and covers the following units: essay writing, grammar, speech, vocabulary, short stories, poetry, drama, and the novel. Continuing emphasis is placed on the competencies of speaking, listening, writing, and reading as well as study skills. Student learning will be assessed through a variety of methods. Students are recommended for this course by their sending schools. Students enrolling in 10118Y are required to complete a summer assignment.

*Prerequisite- students must be recommended by 8th grade teacher and satisfactory completion of summer assignments.*

## **Biology** (year long- 1 credit)

Have you ever wondered how your body works, how your parent's traits were passed to you, or how you impact both the living and non-living world? Biology is the branch of science dealing with the study of life. It describes the characteristics, classification, and behaviors of organisms, how species come into existence, and the interactions they have with each other and with the environment. Students will explore these topics using a variety of methods including labs, dissections, discussions, and projects.

*Prerequisite- concurrent enrollment of Earth Science and 8th grade teacher recommendation.*

## **Geometry** (year long- 1 credit)

Geometry: Where real-life, mathematics and art collide! Students will learn the basics of constructions, transformations, congruence, circles, area, volume, right triangle trigonometry, similarity, and the connections with real-life and the art world. Students will experience geometry through hands-on investigations, class discussions, computer software investigations, demonstrations, and online tutorials. Learning will be assessed through projects, performance tasks, traditional assessments, and computer activities. (Additionally, the learning of Accelerated Geometry students is also assessed through Independent Study and Exploration Tasks.)

*Prerequisite- successful completion of Algebra I and teacher recommendation*

## **French II** (year long- 1 credit)

Students will learn to communicate in French on real-world topics such as: ordering food at a café or restaurant, shopping for clothing, describing the weather, parties, celebrations, sports and seasonal activities. Standards: Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, and Culture.

*Prerequisite- placement test and 8th grade teacher recommendation*

## **Spanish II** (year long- 1 credit)

Students will learn to communicate in Spanish on real-world topics such as: pastimes, accepting and declining invitations for events, ordering food at a restaurant, the family and home, celebrations, and shopping. Students will also explore the following cultural topics: extracurricular activities and sports, traditional celebrations, the concept of family, house designs, and traditional clothing.

*Prerequisite- placement test and 8th grade teacher recommendation*

# OTHER COURSE OFFERINGS



## Business

### **Business Management** *(a semester elective – ½ credit)*

This course is designed for students who want to learn the fundamental concepts of the business world and will help students lay the groundwork for managerial competence in the global marketplace. Some of the general goals of the course are: how businesses and communities depend on each other to prosper; discussion of the factors that make our economic system successful; and why our economic system is the envy of the world in terms of standards of living and the production of goods and services. Students will utilize this information to understand how a successful business is managed. Instructional strategies will include class discussion, presentations, demonstrations, internet research, and guest speakers. Learning will be assessed through performance tasks, written reflection, projects, presentations, as well as formative and summative assessments.

### **Sports & Entertainment Marketing** *(a semester elective – ½ credit)*

This project-based course is designed to introduce the student to the world of Sports, Entertainment, and Recreation Marketing. Students will learn how to apply the marketing mix (product, place, price, promotion) to the sports, entertainment, and recreation industries. Students will manage their own football franchise and learn about sponsorships, endorsements, licensing, careers, advertising, and the media. Students will also gain a greater awareness of marketing campaigns and strategies used to sell products in each of these industries. Students will use a variety of technology as they collaborate to design logos, create TV and radio commercials and produce a variety of promotional materials. Instructional strategies include class discussion, presentations, internet research, simulations, demonstrations, videos, hands-on learning, guest speakers, and possible field trips. Learning will be assessed through performance tasks, written reflection, projects, presentations, as well as formative and summative assessments.

## Design Technology

### **Communications Graphic Arts** *(a semester elective – ½ credit)*

Would you like to know how to use images to sell your product? Be a Master of Visual language and learn how to interpret an image's meanings.

Explore graphic arts and how visual language affects everyone every day. Develop your own company's brand, logos, and promotional materials such as: t-shirts, bumper stickers, hats, mugs/glasses, memo pads, greeting card design, business cards and keychains. Become part of a team that will develop unique packaging ideas for a new product, as you will design and produce your original concepts from start to finish. Graphic Design explores the processes needed to develop original concepts using state of the art computer design/publishing programs to produce professional quality projects. Current digital computer programs include Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop. You will develop an understanding of the printing processes throughout history up to current day technologies like screen-printing and lasers for etching and cutting.

### **Electricity & Electronics** *(a semester elective – ½ credit)*

Open your eyes to the world of programming, circuit design, applications incorporating sensors and other technology to control your 21<sup>st</sup> century world! Fundamentals of Computer Programming and game design, wiring circuits and exploring how electricity is created and will be examined through Problem Based Learning. Experience Green Energy technologies, the effect of magnetism on electric motors, and develop testing strategies to analyze a variety of circuits. Series, parallel and complex circuits will be examined through Arduino controlled systems and sensors.

### **Introduction to Computer Aided Design (CAD)** *(a semester elective – ½ credit)*

This course will provide students with opportunities to explore a variety of design programs that engineers use to design and problem solve. Students will be introduced to architectural and landscaping design using Chief Architect and SketchUp and ON-Shape. You can expect to design structures such as dream houses as well as camping and beach cabins. Additionally, this course will introduce students to mechanical design using SolidWorks. Students will learn to design and model in 3D to create various consumer products. Lastly, the class will explore computer-aided machining using Mastercam. The class will design CNC toolpaths that can be used to make parts on a CNC machine.

### **Principles of Engineering I** *(a semester elective – ½ credit)*

Do you like to design, build, and create cool things? These are distinguishing characteristics of engineers, and this STEM class is the first leg of the engineering pathway exploring Engineering and Design. You will explore STEM by thinking critically and creatively to work through numerous, exciting, hands-on, problem-based activities and projects, working independently or with a team. You will explore many aspects of Design Thinking, problem solving, creative design concepts, innovation, and invention. Once you develop a solid foundation in these areas you will use your ideas and strategies to work in a self-paced learning environment. Learn to use high-tech equipment such as: 4 axis robots to manipulate programs and transport materials, 3-D printers, Laser Engravers, CNC Routers and Plasma cutters and welding. The curriculum also includes Computer programming, 3-D Solid Design and Modeling and analysis, Introduction, Forces and Motion Simulations, Simple Machines, Pulleys and Gears, Belts and Pulleys, Cams and Linkages, Forces and Power, Construction/Destruction. You will design and build many cool things as you learn the principles behind them. **NOTE:** This course may count towards a student's 3rd Science credit or remain an elective credit.

### **Principles of Engineering II** *(a semester elective – ½ credit)*

Expand your knowledge on the second leg of the engineering pathway. This STEM focused course offers you the opportunity to apply and incorporate a variety of approaches with a project driven curriculum which utilize challenges and competitions as you construct solutions to the outlined problems throughout the semester. Concepts are based on mechanical design, material uses and fabrication, computer programming and processes. Programming 4 axis robots to manipulate and transport materials, CNC equipment, plasma cutters, laser engravers and 3D Rapid prototyping machines will allow you to create your own 2D and 3D solid models! All projects will develop your ability to problem solve, analyze, and use logical reasoning while developing your designing and problem-solving strategies as you discover real world applications. Activities include Operations in 3-D Solid Modeling and Design, Cutting CNC parts, building robots, Program integrated 4-axis robots, Product case design, Rapid prototyping and



design part of your choice, CNC operations, Rube Goldberg machines, CAM routing, Cloud computing, alternative energies, and open-ended engineering projects. **NOTE:** This course may count towards a student's 3rd Science credit or remain an elective credit.

#### **Wood Design** *(a semester elective – ½ credit)*

This is a hands-on class where you will explore the fundamentals of design, symmetry, and balance through the fabrication of wood products. You will have an opportunity to build a variety of projects of your choice that fit into your lifestyle. You will explore the design process while becoming familiar with the essentials of woodworking, craftsmanship and problem solving. Choose a product to construct as you learn core concepts through the exploration of wood properties, materials processing, wood identification, joinery procedures, finish techniques and price-to-cost analysis when bringing products to market. Incorporate high end technologies such as laser engraving on a wide variety of raw materials to be included in the fabrication of your projects.

#### **Advanced Wood Design** *(a semester elective – ½ credit)*

This hands-on course will build on the fundamentals of design, symmetry, and balance through the fabrication of wood products. You will design and construct more complex products of your choice while expanding your understanding of core concepts in areas that will include wood properties and identification, joinery procedures, finish techniques, design layout, laser engraver/cutting operations, and business/cost analysis of products. The knowledge that you acquire through this course extends across disciplines through the production of your projects.

## **English**

#### **Literacy Lab** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

This intervention course is taught by a Reading Specialist and has been designed for students who are anywhere from one to three years behind in reading comprehension or vocabulary knowledge. A combination of standardized test scores and teacher recommendation will be used to place students in this course. Some of the topics explored are: Metacognition (How can we pay better attention to what we read?); Summarizing (How do we identify important information?); and Figurative Language (What does abstract or poetic language add to a text and how do we make sense of it?). In addition, the value of bringing a growth mindset to one's learning will be explicitly taught and promoted.

## **The Arts (*Musical, Performing, and Visual*)**

### ***Musical Arts***

#### **Band I** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Become part of the long tradition of instrumental music at BFA! Band I is a performance-based ensemble that will study musical performance, music theory, and music history. There will be a heavy focus on scales, rudiments, and introductory music theory in this class. Students will be given specific exercises and assignments that will help them to become better performers and to understand more about how music is created. Attendance at all music department events is mandatory (concerts, parades, etc.) All Band I students are encouraged to take this class for two semesters to automatically be considered for acceptance into Band II. Prerequisite: Previous Band experience in school and the ability to read music. All guitar and electric bass players must read notated music (not Tablature) and contact the instructor before signing up for Band I.

#### **Band I/Chorus I** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Stay involved in music at BFA! Band I/Chorus I is designed to allow students, primarily Freshmen, to participate in both vocal and instrumental music on a weekly basis. All requirements of each class must be met for students who wish to do both. A Band/Chorus student will equally split time between the two performing ensembles.

#### **Chorus I** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Join chorus and join a great team of musicians! Chorus I is an introduction to choral singing. It is designed for first year choral students but often has upperclassmen who also take the class. Special emphasis will be placed on the development of individual sight reading, aural skills, and vocal technique. Students will be given the opportunity to study and perform music of all styles and periods from Renaissance to Contemporary including sacred, folk, jazz, and popular music. Expanded opportunities to participate in music festivals, music trips, small ensembles, and special performances. Attendance at all performances is mandatory. Chorus I and Chorus II perform together in concerts.

#### **Beginning Guitar** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Learn to be proficient on the guitar in one semester. This class starts from the very beginning: from how to hold the instrument to methodically introducing note reading, chord reading, improvisation (soloing), finger style guitar and many other aspects of playing the guitar. Students will learn how to enjoy making music on the guitar both by themselves and with others. Guitar ensembles, duets and bands of various sorts will be put together with the students in this class. Students who are proficient on the guitar but do not have an understanding of the chords or notes they are playing will be well served by this class. Open to grades 9-12 – No prior musical experience is necessary. Limited to 15 students.

#### **Continuing Guitar** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Take your guitar playing to the next level! This course is a continuation of the content learned in Beginning Guitar at BFA and/or for students who already have significant knowledge on the guitar. Learning outcomes will include: Advanced music literacy - being able to read music at a higher level on the guitar, Ear training - continued work on aural music skills gained through guitar performance, continued work on advanced guitar skills including left and right hand technique, advanced chord knowledge, improvisation, and composition/songwriting techniques. Prerequisite: Completion of Beginning Guitar with a minimum proficiency score of 3 or permission from Mr. Bushey.

#### **Music Technology** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Let's use that device to make music! This course will focus on the technical aspects of music production, including but not limited to, digital recording, sample basic sequencing, and application of recording theory. Students will have access to the devices as well as the recording studio in the music department for both in school and out of school projects.

**Online Influencer of the Arts** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

This new course will help artistic students learn new 21st Century skills through a variety of different media platforms designed to showcase students arts and talents. Practicing digital citizenship through artistic development is a winning combination to support Maple Run's core values and beliefs. Students will engage in a variety of projects to learn about the various methods to create and promote their artform online through appropriate social media. The final project will allow students to produce art either independently or collaboratively with their peers while being fully supported by the instructor.

**Piano Lab** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Let's use technology to help learn the piano! This class gives a variety of methods in becoming proficient in both music and the piano. After an extensive introduction to keyboard orientation, additional units follow which contain graded reading materials and a variety of exercises necessary for pianistic development. Students' progress at their own pace; however, minimum requirements are set forth. The use of Apple-based digital audio workstations assists in musical development.

**String Ensemble** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

String Ensemble is offered to students with previous experience on a traditional orchestral string instrument. Continued emphasis is given to the development of musicianship skills, aural and technical facility, through a large repertoire of string orchestra literature and technical studies. Student involvement in concert and performance activities will be part of the grading process for this course. Participation in all concerts is required.

**Performing Arts****Acting for Everyone** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Students will explore the craft of acting through practical exercises and activities. Using our bodies, voices, and imaginations, we will build confidence and presence on stage while strengthening concentration, vocal and speech techniques and observation skills. We will explore various acting techniques and styles through monologue work, scene work and improvisation activities. Students will gain insight into historical and current acting practices and have the opportunity to find their voice in this expressive art. Building empathy, curiosity and self-awareness, this class is a good fit for anyone who likes to play, wants to learn to take risks and wishes to grow as a human being.

**The Art of Communication** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Nothing is more important to your personal and professional success than the ability to communicate effectively. In this class, students will gain presentation skills while developing greater fluency in relating and interpreting behavior. We will work specifically on body awareness, vocal ability, concentration, listening skills and perception. We will examine assumptions and the ways in which these lead to misunderstandings and misconceptions in both personal and academic situations. Students will gain greater fluency as speakers, listeners and collaborators. They will become more adept at reading situations and body language and better understand how to utilize this knowledge in a variety of contexts.

**Improvisation for Theater and Life** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Improvisation is about being in the moment, listening and responding authentically. This class is for anyone who enjoys playing and exploring expressly. Using theater activities, along with a variety of techniques and tools, students will gain greater confidence as speakers, presenters, and storytellers. We will use improvisation to explore other genres of theater such as Theater for Social Change, Sketch Comedy, and Physical Theater. This work is naturally self-reflective. Learn about yourself while you play!

**Theater Studies: Performing and Beyond** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

In this class students will be introduced to the world of theater. We will look at various roles that exist in production such as directing, the art of playwriting, designing and set construction. We will explore a wide variety of material to introduce various genres of theater and styles of performance and look at ways in which theater is used socially, politically and as a tool for personal growth. Students will explore and develop skills needed to perform. This course is suitable for those who either have some experience with the craft of acting, creative writing or those with a robust curiosity for the nature of human interaction. Students will have an opportunity to participate in The Vermont Young Playwrights festival with Vermont Stage Company and will take a trip to The Flynn to view a professional production.

**Dance** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

This course serves as an introduction to the fundamentals of dance and an exploration of different dance styles. Students learn dance vocabulary and technique in Ballet, Modern and Jazz, develop skills in composition and improvisation, and explore dance history and culture. Students will be assessed through daily practice, demonstration, collaboration, and performance using the fine arts proficiencies.

**NOTE:** Dance students may earn one (1) physical education **or** one (1) fine arts credit by participating in 2 semesters of introduction to dance.

**Intermediate Dance** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

This course will help students progress from a beginning-level dance technique to an intermediate level. Students will expand upon their previous dance knowledge, increasing their technique level through exploration of movement in various styles. Students will expand their dance vocabulary and history in some of the following styles: Contemporary, Urban (Hip Hop), Jazz, Modern, Ballet, or Cultural Dance. They will further develop their skills in composition, improvisation, and performance. Prerequisite: complete beginning Dance 1 or have permission from the dance teacher.

**NOTE:** Dance students may earn one (1) physical education **or** one (1) fine arts credit by participating in 2 semesters of Intermediate Dance.

**Advanced Dance** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

This course will help students progress from an intermediate-level dance technique to an advanced level. Students will expand upon their previous dance knowledge, increasing their technique level through exploration of movement in various styles. Students will expand their dance vocabulary and history in some of the following styles: Contemporary, Urban (Hip Hop), Jazz, Modern, Ballet, or Cultural Dance. They will further develop their skills in composition, improvisation, and performance. Prerequisite: complete beginning and intermediate dance or have permission from the dance teacher. **NOTE:** Dance students may earn one (1) physical education **or** one (1) fine arts credit by participating in 2 semesters of Advanced Dance.



## **Visual Arts**

### **Art 1 and 2** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Learn how to use a variety of artist mediums and have a fuller appreciation for art. Through the elements of art, students will learn fundamentals and techniques with a variety of art materials. Students will have the opportunity to use several paint and drawing mediums, print and create 3-dimensional artwork. This is a hands-on, project-based class, so all work will be done during class time. Learning will be assessed through project completion and class participation.

### **Clay** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Create your own Ceramics! Students will learn the three hand-building techniques as well as a variety of glazing techniques and surface treatments. NO HOMEWORK: all work is created during class time. Learning will be assessed through project completion with an emphasis on the process and class participation. Prerequisites: Successful completion of Art 1.

### **Drawing** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Good drawing skills are the root of all art. Students will develop hand-eye coordination and refine the art elements through a variety of drawing mediums. Learning will be assessed through project completion, the process, growth and peer-to-peer feedback.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Art 1.

### **Painting** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Painting is a great way to express yourself with color! In this class students will explore several painting mediums including but not limited to acrylic, watercolor, and oil. Assessments through critiques, self-assessment, process journals, and project completion. Prerequisites: Successful completion of Art 1.

### **Photography** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Film is alive! This class will empower students with a lifelong skill set for creating compelling imagery with cameras. Students will learn how to photograph using SLR and pinhole film cameras. Additionally, through hands-on instruction, slide presentations and videos students will develop film, create test strips, and develop 8 x 10 photographs. Through connections made from master photographers such as Ansel Adams, students will learn composition rules and methods, then implement skills in their own creations. Students will be assessed through the completion of photography projects, journal entries, self-reflection, and master photographer assignments. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Art 1.

### **Sculpture** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Explore the world of creating 3-dimensional art! Students will learn how to create sculptures exploring how 3-dimensional art relates to space and its surrounding environment. We will learn how to design with various tactile materials, including wire, plaster, paper, found objects, wood, foam, foam core, and more! Students will learn through hands-on demonstrations, videos, slide presentations, and one-on-one critiques with the instructor. All students will be assessed by completing multiple sculpture projects and written reflections. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Art 1.

## **Health and Physical Education**

### **Comprehensive Health** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Comprehensive Health Education is a required course that is taken during the freshman year and sets the tone for a healthy future. It is designed to empower all students with the knowledge, understanding and skills to make informed, health-enhancing decisions. Students will have the opportunity to practice skill proficiencies while developing an understanding of health information related to personal wellness, nutrition and fitness, emotional health, drug prevention and sexuality education.

### **Exploring International Cuisine** *(a semester elective – ½ credit)*

This is an advanced foods class for students who wish to learn about food and its relationship to our multicultural world. We'll study the cultural, historical, social, and environmental influences that have shaped what we cook and eat around the world. Students will also have the opportunity to continue to develop their hands-on kitchen skills in this laboratory course, through the creation of the native cuisine that is researched in class.

### **Food and Nutrition** *(a semester elective – ½ credit)*

In this course students will learn the basics of Nutrition. We will investigate the essential nutrients that food provides us to create and maintain healthy eating habits. We will identify ways to increase the nutritional value of our favorite foods while applying portion size to allow us to eat the treats we love. Students will also learn about; food additives, food issues and controversies, and how they have contributed to the purchase of food. Applying hands-on experience, we will create delicious nutritional dishes that support nutrition research. Students will develop safe cooking skills to create healthy eating habits that can be applied to individuals and families wellness across their lifespan.

### **Taste of America** *(a semester elective – ½ credit)*

Here is a mouthwatering journey across the United States where students will discover and learn how to make fabulous food from every part of the country. Students will feed their brains with fascinating tidbits about food across America and their origins, while creating delicious dishes representing local and multicultural influences of the different regions of America. A great variety of food preparation techniques will blend with a great variety of exciting menu options.

### **Physical Education** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Physical education is offered both semesters for students to meet their graduation requirement and consists of many activities to choose from including team sports, personal fitness, broomball, and archery. Activities are organized to promote either motor skill development used in increasingly complex games or knowledge of movement concepts and principles used to analyze and improve physical fitness and participation. Respect that allows both competitive and non-competitive students to cooperatively compete/participate in the game/activity together is assessed throughout. All freshmen are required to take one semester of Physical Education.

## **Mathematics**

### **Math Seminar** *(a semester course – ½ credit)*

Math Seminar: It's all about you! Math Seminar was developed by the BFA Math Department to meet the needs of our students who struggle in math, not because of a lack of effort, but because they have gaps in their math education. This course will be completely personalized for each student and all instruction will be on an individual basis. Learning will be assessed through the progress each student makes toward meeting their identified standards.

## World Languages

### **French I** (*year long- 1 credit*)

Students will learn to communicate in French on real-world topics such as: telling the time and date, describing themselves and others, daily life at home and at school, likes and dislikes, and relationships with family and friends.

### **Spanish I** (*year long- 1 credit*)

Students will learn to communicate in Spanish on real-world topics such as: making introductions, describing the weather, interacting with friends, expressing likes and dislikes, describing school life, discussing food and healthy habits. Students will also explore the following cultural topics: the geography of the Spanish-speaking world, differences in climate, schools in the Spanish-speaking world, pastimes, traditional foods and eating habits.

### **Latin I** (*year long- 1 credit*)

Using the 'Restored Classical Pronunciation', students begin speaking (recitation mainly), reading, writing, and listening to basic Latin using simple grammar constructs which continue to build as fluency does. Students will learn about the daily life of an ancient Roman family, the theater, slavery, mythology, art, gladiators, mythology, and maybe some ancient Greek.

### **Fiestas, Siestas and "Mas": A Cultural Exploration** (*a semester elective – ½ credit*)

This class will introduce and expose students to the rich cultural traditions of the Spanish-speaking world, beginning with Spain. Possible topics include Spanish food, sports, music and dance, festivals and holidays, art and architecture, and film. A variety of activities will range from online reading and research, videos, hands-on projects, food tasting, and small group discussions.

**NOTE:** This is not a language class and does not fulfill any language requirements. **However**, it will count as elective credit.

### **Gods, Heroes & Monsters: A Myth Experience** (*a semester elective – ½ credit*)

Discover the Olympian Gods and Goddesses worshiped by the ancient Greeks and Romans, and how they ruled over the human world. Accompany some ancient heroes on their adventures as they encounter the gods and some fantastical monsters who peppered their daredevil exploits! Through various readings, art, and project-based assignments, which focus on the early Greek and Roman hero myths and realms of the gods, you will learn about and explore the important life lessons these myths relate. And then, if time permits, set out on your own adventure to explore other cultures' myths about gods, heroes, and monsters to see if the same life lessons are included. What can you take away from the important life lessons at the heart of all these hero stories? Why do we keep coming back to reinterpret them to fit our modern experiences? You will also try your hand at writing your own version of a hero myth—will it be something 'Shakespearean'? West Side Story-ish? Percy Jackson-like? Harry Potter-esque? Star Wars-y? **OR**, something NEW and different? **NOTE:** This is not a language class and does not fulfill any language requirements. **However**, it will count as elective credit.

### **Greek and Roman Civilization** (*a semester elective – ½ credit*)

Learn about the ancient classical world. Take a different kind of trip back in time and look at the Greco-Roman world spanning the ancient Greek empire of the Late Bronze Age through to the reign of the Roman Emperor, Constantine. Topics covered may include the following: geography, mythology, archaeology, literature, history, politics and war, art architecture, the role of women, democracy, republic, slavery, and philosophy from the perspective of both cultures. Through readings, videos, projects, online explorations, and more, students will learn how these ancient cultures have influenced history and the western world. **NOTE:** This is not a language class and does not fulfill any language requirements. **However**, it will count as elective credit.

## ALTERNATIVE & ASSISTIVE PROGRAMS

*These programs are open to approved students only.*

SKILL BUILDING PROGRAM	NOVUS	LEARNING CENTER	COMMUNITY INTEGRATION PROGRAM	THE LIGHTHOUSE ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM
Skill Building offers academic and social emotional support to promote success in school. Instruction is offered in organization and planning, time management, task initiation, and flexible thinking skills, in addition to support completing assignments. Collaboration with teachers, parents/guardians, school staff, and outside agencies occurs regularly. Credit is awarded when students demonstrate proficiency in their transferable skills in the Skill Building class. Placement decisions are made through the EST and 504 process, and in consultation with the Skill Building coordinator.	Novus is an alternative special education program within BFA. The program serves a limited number of students (20) with a specific focus on behavioral, academic, and social skills. All academic instruction is provided in small group settings. Individual case management is provided by professional staff that works in concert with school, family, and local agencies.	The Learning Center serves students with a wide range of disabilities who are eligible for special education services. Students are generally in regular education classes and receive a period of Academic Skills in the Learning Center. Students receive direct skill instruction, content support, and transition planning as dictated by their Individual Education Program (IEP). Case Managers collaborate with families, students, school staff, and outside agencies as necessary to support students and their programs.	The Community Integration Program (CIP) supports students with intellectual disabilities. We offer alternative curriculum options that focus on individuals' goals, which promote independence and success both in high school and beyond. We have an extensive work experience component and collaborate closely with local mental health agencies and other outside service providers to assist in transitioning to adult services.	An individualized and flexible alternative pathway for general education students who are struggling with accessing their education due to chronic disengagement and/or current or ongoing behavioral, social, emotional, and academic challenges. This program is located off-site, however, students can continue to access classes at BFA if appropriate.





Specialty Modules are single-period electives offered exclusively to students of Bellows Free Academy, Saint Albans. These introductory courses provide students with foundational experience and a snapshot of the programs they feed into. Specialty Modules are an excellent way for 9th grade students to introduce themselves to Northwest Career & Technical Center and the programs we offer. Students **do not** have to take a Specialty Module to be accepted into the full program.

SPECIALTY MODULE	COURSE #	DESCRIPTION
<b>Power Sports Equipment &amp; Technology</b>	70101	A hands-on introduction to the maintenance and repair of four-stroke engines and a variety of power sports equipment. Students will develop the skills and confidence necessary for entry-level employment in dealerships and independent repair facilities and participate in the Harley Davidson Motorcycle Maintenance Program.
<b>Construction Trades Foundations</b>	70151	Students will be exposed to power tools and safety practices related to construction and will be able to identify the various employment opportunities in the construction field. Areas to be introduced are masonry, ceramic tile, plumbing and heating, painting, weatherization, electrical, house framing, and many more.
<b>Baker's Apprentice</b>	70251	Knowing the relationship between basic ingredients (flour, butter, sugar, yeast, etc.) can give insight to the final outcome. Students coming into this course will be exposed to various techniques and products associated with the pastry kitchen. Students will cover dough, lamination, cakes, and many other confections.
<b>The Kitchen Garden</b>	70253	The number of food service professionals "growing their own" is on the rise and many operations employ full time gardeners to tend their gardens and orchards. Whether you are trying to cut your produce bill, provide specialty garnishes, or "get away from it all" for an hour a day, creating a kitchen garden will inspire you to become a better chef.
<b>Intro to Robotics</b>	70402	Intro to Robotics is a lab based course that uses a hands on approach to introduce students to basic concepts of robotics. This course focuses primarily on the construction and programming of autonomous robots. All interested students are welcome to join this course. No prior experience with technology is required!
<b>Teacher Prep</b>	70452	Learn the basics of learning theory including learning styles, how you learn, how learning changes as we develop over time, special learning needs, and what it takes to become a teacher.
<b>Digital Video Basics</b>	70551	Learn how to create short digital videos for the web.
<b>Digital Photography</b>	70553	Learn digital photography and create unique images using Adobe Photoshop.
<b>Rescue 911</b>	70351	Learn the most practiced skills and drills used in today's Emergency situations. Course will include CPR & First Aid Certification through the American Red Cross.

### OUTDOOR TECHNOLOGY

is an introductory course for 9th and 10th graders. This program is ideal for students who want to spend time outside exploring, helping the community and developing leadership skills. The field-based curriculum emphasizes hands-on learning with multiple outdoor lessons and activities each week. Outdoor Technology focuses on ecological stewardship, holistic problem-solving, and effective communication. Students develop complex understandings of natural communities and ecosystems, sustainable forestry, and regenerative agriculture through experiential projects, service learning and career exploration. **(Course No.: 70311Y)**

