

**Academic Choice Spring Meeting**  
**May 23, 2012, 7:00 – 8:30 pm BHS library**

**Meeting Notes**

The Academic Choice Team held its spring general meeting on May 23, 2012.

**Common Curriculum and Assessment for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grades**

AC has standardized the skills that are taught in all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade English and history classes, with common assessments taken at several points during the year.

**History Department**

We are now teaching world history for two years in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades with a focus on developing reading and writing skills.

**English Department**

We conduct common assessments at the end of each semester. The 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes prepare students for taking AP classes in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Parent involvement has allowed us to provide extra support for our students.

**Math Department**

Every April honors tests are given for honors classes to be taken the following year. Students need to get an A or a B to continue taking honors classes the next year.

Two calculus classes are offered:

- AB calculus is equivalent to 1 semester of college calculus
- BC calculus is equivalent to 2 semesters of college calculus

Mathematical Studies IB is an overview class that includes statistics and probability.

The math department has common finals for each class. Math teachers meet to share teaching methods.

**Science Department**

Evyn Kavalier is the Science Team Lead.

The typical sequence of courses is biology in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, chemistry or AP chemistry in 10<sup>th</sup>. AP Chemistry requires strong math skills. In 11<sup>th</sup> grade students can take one of 3 AP courses (biology, chemistry, environmental science) or a science elective. In 12<sup>th</sup> grade Physics and AP physics are offered in addition to the 11<sup>th</sup> grade offerings. AP Physics requires enrollment in calculus.

Students are encouraged to sign up for science labs, which are offered as supplements to the science classes. Students can get extra credit for taking the labs, and it helps them with the corresponding science class. About 20% of students take the labs.

### **PE Waivers**

BHS encourages students to participate in PE classes at Berkeley High. To get PE credit for classes taken outside BHS requires a PE waiver with the correct signatures each semester.

### **Courses at Berkeley City College**

Students should minimize the number of courses taken at Berkeley City College, but this is allowed for courses that are not offered at BHS. The student's counselor assesses the student's schedule, and if appropriate can approve up to 10 credits per semester at Berkeley City College. These classes are taken after school or on the weekend.

### **ACAC Budget**

Olga Volodina reported on the ACAC budget. For details contact her at olga--volodina@sbcglobal.net.

### **New AC Website**

Ben Sanoff discussed efforts to put up a new AC website. It will have the same look and feel as the main BHS website. Please send any feedback on the new website (<http://berkeleyschools.net/ac/>) to bensenoff@berkeley.net.

### **No Advisory for the 2012/2013 School Year**

There will be no advisory period next year.

### **Vote for ACAC Parent Representatives**

Barbara Anscher, Susanna Moore, Francesca Verdier, and Olga Volodina ran for the 2012-2013 AC Advisory Committee parent positions, and were endorsed unanimously by those present.