Jumpstart Your College Career: Bellefontaine High School's Dual Enrollment Program

Bonnie Versele
JUMPSTART YOUR COLLEGE CAREER
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What is Dual Enrollment?
Dual Enrollment enables a student to earn high school and college credit concurrently. The classes are taught by Bellefontaine teachers who have met the criteria for adjunct professor status. The high school curriculum is aligned to the college course, therefore students never have to leave our high school to start earning college credit.

Who is eligible?
Students in grades 9-12 who carry a grade point average of 3.0 or above are eligible to apply for Dual Enrollment credit. (For Drafting, students must have at least a 2.8 GPA)

How much does it cost?
As with all colleges, the price varies according to the college partner we use for that particular class. The cost for BHS dual enrollment credits range from $25 per quarter hour to $75 per semester hour depending on the partnering college. Please see the enclosed chart reflecting the cost per class.

What dual enrollment classes will be offered in 2011-2012?
BHS will embed 18 college courses within 16 high school classes. Please see the enclosed chart listing the dual enrollment classes and all the college information.

When do I enroll?
Students who have scheduled into a dual enrollment class will have the opportunity to register for college credit at the beginning of each school year. A meeting for interested parents and students will be held Monday, August 29 at 7:00 P.M. in the BHS auditorium. Applications and tuition money will be collected in early September.

May I take a dual enrollment class but not sign up for college credit?
Yes, you have the option of taking a dual enrollment class for the rigor but not the college credit.

What is the difference between Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement?
Both of these options carry college credit. To earn college credit for an Advanced Placement class, a student must take a national AP exam in May and score at a certain level to earn college credit. The cost is $87 per exam. Dual Enrollment credit is based on daily performance and testing conducted in the classroom. A student must earn a grade of ‘C’ or higher to accrue college credit. The cost for Dual Enrollment is higher than Advanced Placement but still deeply discounted. Advanced Placement is the golden apple when colleges look at transcripts. However, the tests are very challenging. That is why some of our Dual Enrollment options are embedded in AP classes so students have a choice. We strongly encourage all students to take as many Honors, AP, and DE classes as possible to be college and career ready.
Are Dual Enrollment classes weighted?
Unlike AP classes, Dual Enrollment and honors classes are not weighted at BHS. However, all of them prepare you for college and assist in the college selection process.

Who are Bellefontaine’s college partners?
BHS is pleased to partner with Clark State Community College and Urbana University.

How do Dual Enrollment credits transfer to various colleges?
As with all transfer of college credit, it is ultimately up to the receiving university. However, almost all colleges accept transfer credit if they have a course that matches up to the description. If the class does not match up, the credit can usually be applied as an elective toward college graduation. Most Dual Enrollment classes offered are freshman level and fall into the general education requirements so they will transfer. In Ohio, Case Western does not accept Dual Enrollment credit and very selective schools (e.g. Ivy League, Duke, Notre Dame, MIT) will probably not accept credits from other colleges either. However, showing you are able to handle college level work while in high school will better prepare you for college and heighten your odds for college admission. For more specific information, go to www.transfer.org or directly contact colleges of interest.

What are the benefits of Dual Enrollment?
Bottom line…
Dual Enrollment saves you time and money - two equally valuable commodities. For example, a BHS student can take a dual enrollment class for $225 that could cost $2000 or more for the exact class on a private college campus. Other benefits are that you enter college above the beginning freshman status. This can allow you to schedule ahead of other freshmen, gain a better dormitory selection, study abroad sooner, or gain access to courses in your major before others your age. And of course, you can graduate from college in less than four years if you plan accordingly.

Our district’s mission is to effectively and efficiently provide learning opportunities that challenge all students to realize their maximum potential. Honors, Advanced Placement, and Dual Enrollment programs parallel that educational mission. Our goal is for seniors to walk across the Commencement platform at BHS holding a high school diploma in one hand and a college transcript in the other. In partnership with colleges, we want our students to have the opportunity to move directly from a senior in high school to a sophomore in college. We want to keep our able learners and leaders engaged in activities on our high school campus. We want to help students prepare for and succeed in college by providing rigorous coursework. We applaud our students for accepting the challenge of accelerated coursework, and we appreciate our teachers for offering these classes!

For further information contact Bonnie Versele, BHS Guidance Counselor and Dual Enrollment Coordinator, at verseleb@bellefontaine.k12.oh.us