

Brunswick High School's APEX Scholars Program-- A Student Academy for Advanced Placement Experience



APEX Program Setting and Philosophy

The APEX Scholars Program is designed as a four-year course of study in which a select group of academy students will follow a comprehensive curriculum combining accelerated honors level and intensive advanced placement level course work. The course of study will provide students with a broad, general background in many academic areas at a level appropriate to highly academically gifted learners. Initially, students will be homogeneously whenever possible in order to facilitate cross-disciplinary learning experiences and prepare students for AP coursework. Due to the rigorous nature of the APEX curriculum, support services are provided by the APEX Program Coordination and through after-school seminar study sessions. APEX Scholars who meet or exceed six AP courses will be given special recognition at graduation and on their high school transcript.

APEX Admission Process

Submission of a complete application packet to the APEX Scholars Program will be considered as a nomination to the program. The selection process will begin for each student when the admission packet is received by the prescribed deadline. Each student will be responsible for completing and submitting the admission packet with all of the necessary items:

- *Teacher Evaluation Forms (4)*
- *Student Application*
- *List of References*
- *Extra-Curricular Verification Form*
- *Counselor and Principal Verification Form*
- *Participation in a Timed Writing*

The APEX selection committee will evaluate each nominee's performance and readiness in a holistic manner. Nominees will receive one of the following letters – full acceptance to the APEX Scholars Program, or waiting list status. Nominees will have a period of ten weekdays from the postmarked date of the decision letter to return a letter of commitment, a letter of acceptance of wait-list status, or a letter of appeal.

BHS APEX Program Requirements

- *APEX Scholars must meet all usual state and FCPS requirements for graduation, as well as meeting the unique requirements for the APEX designation.*
- *By the end of the APEX Scholar's senior year, a minimum of six Advanced Placement courses must be completed, **and** the student must have taken a minimum of six AP examinations to demonstrate mastery of the course material.*
- *APEX Scholars must participate in required summer reading, preparatory courses in grades 9 and 10, two mandatory AP Courses (AP World History, a year-long course in grade 10) and AP English Language and Composition (a one semester course in grade 11). The student will self-select a minimum of four other AP courses, including a science or math course and a Theory of Knowledge/Philosophy course in the senior year.*
- *Careful planning and selection of courses in the initial high school grades is important so that students can meet the prerequisites for optional AP courses in the upper-grade levels.*
- *Should a student, with appropriate counseling, decide that the APEX program is no longer meeting his/her personal goals, the student may enter the honors level program.*

APEX Curriculum Sequence*

GRADE 9 – Honors and APEX Level Courses

- *English 9 Honors/APEX – heavy emphasis on writing skills*
- *Science (Algebra-based Physics, Honors/APEX)*
- *Social Studies (Government Honors/APEX)*

GRADE 10 – One, Not More Than Two, AP Level Courses

- *English 10 Honors/APEX*
- *(APEX) *AP World History -- *year-long course*
- *One Additional Student-Selected AP Course (optional)*
- *(APEX) Chemistry*

GRADE 11 – Students May Select Up To Three AP Level Courses

- *(APEX) AP English Language and Composition and/or English 11 Honors*
- *One or Two Additional Student Selected AP Courses (one math or science highly recommended)*

GRADE 12 – Students Select AP Courses (Must Total 6 By Senior Year), Plus

- *Philosophy (Theory of Knowledge)*
- *Additional Student-Selected AP Courses*

**Curriculum requirements may be subject to change*