



Class of 2023 Freshman Orientation Packet



Welcome class of 2023!

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Freshman Checklist



Freshman to Sophomore Year Checklist

Fall Freshman Year:

- Join a club or sport! **Get involved!** Ask your counselor if you need a place to get started
 - Look at opportunities to get involved in your school and community
- Learn what supports are available for you
- Check out our **academic assistance and homework help** after school
- Build healthy study habits and organization and time management skills
- Start a list of your awards, honors, paid and volunteer work, and extracurricular activities and update it throughout high school

Spring of Freshman Year:

- Check **course requests** to make sure they are following your **career pathway**
- Start and continuously edit a **four year plan**
- Check to make sure you are on track to meet **graduation requirements**
- Plan to use your summer wisely: work, volunteer, internship experience
 - Explore summer opportunities



How to request an appointment with your counselor



Go online to www.bshscounseling.weebly.com or go to www.billingsseiorhigh.com click on “Students” then click on “Counseling Office.”

In the event of a crisis please go to the Counseling Center - NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED



Career Cruising



Career Cruising is an internet-based career exploration and planning tool used to explore career and college options and develop a career plan. Career Cruising can be accessed from school, home, or wherever the student has access to the internet.

- Career Cruising via PowerSchool
 - Log on to PowerSchool
 - Click on box in top right hand corner--->
 - This will direct you to sign into Career Cruising





All Student Academic Assistance



ALL STUDENT ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE TUTORING / HOMEWORK HELP

ALL SUBJECT ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE 3-4 PM

TUESDAY & THURSDAY ROOM 126

MATH 3-4 PM

MONDAY ROOM 334-Hudson
TUESDAY ROOM 300-Erickson
THURSDAY ROOM 330-Taylor

ENGLISH 3-4 PM

MONDAY ROOM 204A

SCIENCE 3-4 PM

THURSDAY ROOM 306

SOCIAL STUDIES 3-4 PM

MONDAY ROOM 214
TUESDAY ROOM 207
THURSDAY ROOM 207

HEALTH & PE 3-4 PM

MON-THURS WEIGHT ROOM & GYM (3:15-4:30)
HEALTH: TUESDAYS ROOM 111

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 3-4 PM

TUESDAY ROOMS 117 & 119

ART 3-4 PM

TUESDAY (CHECK WITH ART TEACHER ON CLASSROOM)



Helpful Websites



Billings Senior High Website:

www.billingseniorhigh.com

Scholarships	Daily Announcements	Activities Schedule
Faculty & Staff Directory	Clubs & Activities	Other

Billings Senior High School Counseling Department Website:

www.bshscounseling.weebly.com

Announcements	Counseling Staff Contact Information	Jobs
Scholarships	Remind	Graduation Requirements
Career Cruising	ACT/SAT	MT Colleges/Universities Info
Training & Certifications	Apprenticeship Info	Cosmetology Schools
Billings Adult & Community Ed	College Visits	Financial Aid
Collegiate Athletic Info	Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)	Military



Graduation Requirements



- Must earn **21 credits** in order to graduate from Billings Senior High School
- **½ credit equals 1 semester**. Consequently, a full year course (two semesters) equals 1 full credit
- Each year, make sure to go through the credits you have earned and the credits you still need to make sure that you are **on track for graduation**
- If you fail a **required class** for graduation you **MUST** make up the course
 - See your counselor ASAP if you need to make up a required course
- **Graduation Requirements** are listed below:
 - **4 credits of English**
 - **3 credits of Social Studies**
 - **2 credits of Math**
 - **2 credits of Science**
 - **1 credit Visual/Performing Arts**
 - **1 credit of CTE**
 - **1 credit of PE/Health**
 - **7 additional credits of elective classes**



Valedictorian Criteria



The student with the highest weighted grade point average after 8 semesters of high school coursework will be deemed valedictorian. In order to obtain a level playing field, all students vying for valedictorian must earn a total of 24 credits.



How to Calculate Your GPA



Unweighted (Non-Honors) Classes

A=4

B=3

C=2

D=1

F=0

Weighted (Honors/AP) Classes

A=5

B=4

C=3

D=1

F=0

Example:

PS > Earth Sci H	B	0.50
EN > English 1H AM	B	0.50
MA > Geometry H	A	0.50
AR Concert Choir	A	0.50
PA Food and Nutrition	A	0.50
EL French 1	A	0.50
HH HLTH Enhance 1	A	0.50

GPA=quality points divided by # of classes

$4+4+5+4+4+4+4=29$ (quality points)

Number of classes=7

$29/7=4.14$ GPA



Platinum Program



Students are invited to sign on to an exciting four years of challenging work.

Class/Course requirements:

- 9th grade (honors) science, math, English
- 10th grade (honors) science, math, English, AP World History
- 11th grade (honors or AP) science, math, AP English Language, and AP US History
- 12th grade (honors or AP) science, AP math, AP English Literature, and AP Government
- 3 years of foreign language is highly recommended, but not required
- A minimum of a “C” grade must be earned in all courses
- Academic integrity forms the foundation of the Platinum Program. Any student failing to adhere to the policies outlined in the Senior High Student Handbook will be exited from the Platinum Program.

Major project requirements

Platinum Program students will complete a “Magnum Opus” (great work) project in the field of his or her choosing. The project will be undertaken during the student’s junior and senior year of high school. The project must meet the standards set by a jury of faculty members and the Senior High principal.

Distinctions

Students who finish all of the requirements of the Platinum Program will be recognized during graduation ceremonies. Letters of recommendation will refer to the students’ completion of the program and will reflect the rigor involved. In addition, Billings Senior High School transcripts will include specific mention of the Platinum Program.



Attendance Policy



“10 Day Rule”

- Class attendance and participation are requirements for receiving credit in a given class at the high school level. Therefore, a student may be given a P credit in any given class for which he/she would have otherwise earned a passing grade/mark-when absences exceed a total of ten (10) per semester.
- Students may appeal the 10 absences per semester limit. A student who anticipates that an extended absence will exceed the 10 day limit may appeal in advance.
- A student must initiate the appeal process at least one week before the end of the semester by obtaining a form from his/her Assistant Principal/Attendance Clerk.

Students with the last name **A-G Mr. Kroll**

Attendance Clerk Patty Melvin

Students with the last name **H-O Mr. Russell**

Attendance Clerk Sheri Franjevic

Students with the last name **P-Z Mrs. Strouf**

Attendance Clerk Dennisse Williams



Student Support Services



Remember being a part of Bronc Nations means there are adults all around you who care about your well-being. If you need someone to talk to, or you are concerned about a friend please stop by the counseling office or visit with one of these adults.



We care about all of YOU including: grades, food/shelter, safety, and well-being.

Bailee Vaughn-Career Coach Rm 131 A
406-281-5519
vaughnb@billingschools.org

Gail Bader-Tumbleweed Student Advocate Rm 131 G
406-281-5548
baderg@billingschools.org

Jimmy Salyer-Integrated School Based Therapist Rm 131 E
406-281-5521
salyerj@billingschools.org

Kathleen Lancaster-Social Worker Rm 131 F
406-281-5522
lancasterk@billingschool.org

Michelle Watson-ETS/Upward Bound Advisor Rm 130
406-281-5520
watsonm@billingschools.org

Ashley Good Luck-Indian Ed Home to School Coordinator Rm 210
406-281-5461
goodlucka@billingschools.org

Brandon Covers-up-Indian Ed Coordinator/Graduation Coach Rm 128
406-281-5449
coversupb@billingschools.org

Mitch Hillier-School Resource Officer Rm 132
406-281-5518
hillierm@billingschools.org



Clubs and Activities



ACADEMIC TEAM – Do you like to learn new things, spend time with interesting people and compete with top students from around our region? Then academic team is for you! All students are welcome to join. We have Varsity and junior Varsity teams that compete in the areas of general knowledge, history and science. You can choose whether to participate in one or more competitions, depending on your schedule and availability. Please see Ms. Biersdorf in Room 221 for more information.

ADVOCATES - Senior Advocates are a group of our Juniors and Seniors who gain community service credit through being ambassadors for Senior High. Advocates are present on our first day of school with the freshmen to share what they love about being part of our school. They conduct tours of the building, help teachers with classroom activities, help out in our food pantry, and provide service to the committee that organizes Saturday Live, just to name a few of the areas where we provide service to the building. See Mrs. Nation in room 101 for more information.

ART and CLAY CLUB - This club is an opportunity for students to work with clay during a time other than scheduled class. All students are welcome on a drop-in basis. The ceramics teacher supervises the activity, but there is not instruction. Mondays @ 3:10. Sponsor Mrs. Petersen - room 115

ARCHERY CLUB – This club meets biweekly to learn and practice archery. Tuesdays & Thursdays @ 3:45 at Superior Archery in Lockwood. Sponsor: Mike Walz

BOOKS and MOVIES Club (BAM) – This club reads books that have been made into movies and then gets together for a movie night of that book. See sponsors Mrs. Bloomenrader and Mrs. Aselson in the Library for more information.

BPA - Business Professionals of America. BPA helps students prepare for a world class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills. Students can compete in over 60 contests in the following four categories: Financial Services, Administrative Support, Information Technology, and Management, Marketing & Human Resources. Students have the ability to compete at regional, state, and national competition every year. Sponsor: Mr. Easton Room 31C

BRONC ANNUAL – The staff is responsible for creating the school yearbook. Staff members take photographs, sell yearbooks and advertising, construct electronic layouts and produce the yearbook. For information, please talk to Mr. Restad in Room 206.

BRONC EXPRESS - The staff is responsible for writing, editing, and producing issues of the Bronc Express, the school newspaper. Bronc Annual Staff members must sign up for Bronc Express class and participate for the full year. For information, please talk to Mr. Restad in Room 206.

CHEERLEADING - Cheerleaders are responsible for supporting school spirit and are role models in our school and community. Cheering at pep assemblies and JV and Varsity games our main role, but we do everything we can to increase the school spirit in Bronc Nation. We have both seasonal and full year positions, allowing our cheerleaders to participate in other school activities! Fundraising is a big part of our summer season as we raise money for uniforms and other items that are needed throughout the year. Tryouts are held each Spring and flyers are posted throughout the high school and are distributed to the middle school with times and dates. We cheer for all sports, including home and cross-town events for cross country football, volleyball, soccer, wrestling, and boys/girls basketball. Varsity cheerleaders also travel for some playoff and state games. Cheerleaders also make appearances in many local events throughout the city of Billings as volunteers. Sponsor: Taylor Beagle, email beaglet@billingssschools.org

CHESS CLUB – Monday’s after school. Rm 216 For more information see Mr. Bottrell-Rm 216

DANCE TEAM - Senior Storm performs at home football games and both girls and boys basketball games. Tryouts are in November and in the spring (usually in April.) Flyers will be sent to the middle schools before tryouts. Sponsor: Chelsea Nelson

DRAMA/PLAY – The drama club meets weekly and puts on two plays a year; one in the fall/winter and one in spring. Drama Club meets on Thursdays at 3:30 in Room 220. See sponsor: Katie Rehberg

FCCLA – Family Career Community Leaders of America - Involvement in FCCLA offers members the opportunity to expand their leadership potential and develop skills for life -- planning, goal setting, problem solving, decision making, and interpersonal communication -- necessary in the home and workplace. Students can participate in over 50 competitive events focusing on addressing youth concerns through Family and Consumer Sciences education, a few examples include: parenting, family relationships, environment, nutrition & fitness, career exploration. Students have the ability to compete at regional, state and national competitions every year. Chapter meetings are: Weds. at lunch, Room 136. Sponsor: Mrs. Charlton-Rm 136

FILM CLUB – Meets to viewing short films about a voted on topic. The kids will be taught different angles, points of view, timing and editing skills. Fridays after school, Room 217. Sponsor: Mr. Bishop

FORENSICS/SPEECH and DEBATE - Debate teams and Speech. During the season practice is held after school Monday through Friday at 3:15 in various rooms. Sponsor: Ben Norberg and Sonia Davis.

FRENCH CLUB – meets on Wednesdays after school for preparing French goodies, holiday projects, party planning and games (outdoor-weather permitting). Sponsor Mrs. Schlaht-room 213.

GAME CLUB – This club meets to play tabletop games. The club meets Thursdays after school in the Library. Sponsor: Alice Asleson

GAMING CLUB – See club sponsor, Mr. Rader, in Room 326 for more information.

GERMAN CLUB - German Club meets Wednesdays from 3:15 - 4:00. Activities include: various sports, cooking, holiday parties, projects, community service and cultural activities. If you are interested, sign-ups are in room 103 with Frau Schell.

GSA CLUB – The Gay Straight Alliance Club meets each Wednesday at lunch in Room 216. GSA is made up of students of all backgrounds and orientations and no questions are asked about a student’s gender or identity. LGBTQ issues in and around our school as well as in the broader community are discussed. New attendees are always welcome. Free pizza is served each week.

IMPARTIAL POLITICS CLUB – The Impartial Politics Club meets in Room 311 after school (days vary). The goal of this club is to discuss every angle of a political belief that a person may hold. The goal is to help members understand the reasons others hold these beliefs and highlight the need and lack of open mindedness in the modern political realm. Sponsor: Houston Harmon Room 311.

KEY CLUB - Key Club is a service club associated with the Kiwanis. We participate and organize community projects such as the Festival of Trees, food drives and dress-a-child. Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in room 322. Sponsor: Miss Stugelmeyer, Room 322.

MOUNTAIN BIKING CLUB – Join the High School mountain biking revolution! Never mountain biked before? This is the best place to start. Everyone rides and coaches will help you find a bike and/or helmet. The goal is to build strong minds, bodies and character while having fun. Races are optional, but encouraged. There will be one trained coach to every 6 riders. This is a city wide NICA club and Senior’s club will help get city wide ride information out to our students. For more information see sponsors Jennifer Hudson (Room 334) or James Easton (Room 313A).

NATIVE AMERICAN CLUB - Social and Cultural activities. Meetings are Tuesdays at 3:10 to 4:00 in room 128. See Mr. Covers Up in room 128 for more information.

SPANISH CLUB- The Spanish Club celebrates and promotes intercultural education. In a effort to reach this goal, we invite all Spanish students to join our club. Events that we celebrate include: Cinco de Mayo, Dia de los muertos, Dia del amor y la amistad, Navidad y Dia de las brujas. Spanish Club meets 2 Wednesdays each month. For more information see Sponsor, Mrs. Nation in room 101

STEM Society - STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) Society is a student-led organization at Billings Senior High School. The aim of STEM Society is to provide opportunities for students to engage in STEM outside of class. We go on field trips to help with scientific research and assist scientists in the field; we visit elementary schools and perform STEM Magic Shows to show young people the wonders of science. Participation in this organization qualifies you to earn an Academic Letter and Pin in science (similar to Varsity Activities Letter). We meet every other Wednesday (dates/times to be announced) in room 223. Join us to learn more!

STU CO (Student Council) - Stu Co promotes school spirit all through the year and especially during Homecoming Week. They help others in the community all through the year. Student Council governs the student body of Senior High School. Student Council handles sending students to boys and girls state in Helena. We have our elections for the upperclassman in March and elections for freshman in the fall. Meetings are every Wednesday at Lunch. Sponsor: Mrs.Fleek Airne - room 203

TECH CLUB – Meetings start in November – Tuesday after school room 117. See Mr. Keller in room 117.

YOUNG DEMOCRATS CLUB – The Young Democrats Club works inside Senior High and in our community to increase student voter registration, educate students on political issues, and volunteer with democratic organizations and campaigns. See Mrs. Lord, Room 305

Don't forget all the sports activities that Senior High offers:

Fall Sports:

Football - Coach Murdock – room 118
Volleyball - Karen Switzer
Soccer - Girls - Chez Keehn
Boys - Coach Robbins - room 224
Golf - Coach Weik room gym
Cross Country - Coach Lord room 305

Winter Sports:

Wrestling - Coach Beeman room 122
Basketball - Boys - Coach Haws room 111/Gym
Girls - Coach Silliker room 231B
Swimming - Coach Mitch Crouse

Spring Sports:

Tennis - Boys - Coach Miller @ Orchard Elementary
Tennis- Girls - TBD
Track - Boys - Coach Quesenberry room 109/gym
Girls - Coach Weik room gym
Softball -Coach Shulund room 111/gym

USEFUL WEBSITES

Senior High – www.billingsseiorhigh.com
BPS Athletic Schedules www.rankonesport.com (or access from the Bronc Activities tab on Senior High webpage).