

## **ACADEMIC CHOICE at Berkeley High School: Write Your Own Success Story**

Everyone has a story. Yours has a terrific main character—YOU—and endless plot possibilities. How will it twist and turn? No one can say for sure. But the chapter on high school is coming up. How do you want it to read?

### **Explore Your Interests and Discover Your Strengths**

As an AC student, you have the fewest required courses. As with all other learning communities, AC specifies most of your English and History courses. You choose whether or not to add the AP options. Then during senior year you choose your English course from several great classes. BHS has graduation requirements and the UC/CSU system specifies college admission requirements, (the “a-g” credits,) but then AC lets you choose—with guidance from parents, counselors and teachers—which courses YOU want to take to meet those requirements. AC’s schedule has six year-long slots you can fill with any elective offered by AC or the school at large, once requirements are provided for.

### **What that Means for YOU:**

With all this freedom, you can take full advantage of Berkeley High’s rich course offerings—building your knowledge, exploring your talents and discovering new things about yourself. Learn two foreign languages, explore the arts or technology, try Sports Medicine or African American studies. Take music and dance every year. Experiment with making your own decisions about what to study within a context of good strong guidance.

### **Challenge Yourself Academically**

Academic Choice has the greatest number of Advanced Placement courses that Berkeley High has to offer, plus honors options at every level of math. It also has the fewest restrictions on course sequences. This means you have the greatest freedom in deciding when and how to challenge yourself academically. You can go beyond taking the minimum requirements in any areas you choose. take AP science as a sophomore if you like, or wait until junior year to try one. Take as many AP classes as you want as a junior and senior, or don’t take any AP classes at all. In Academic Choice, you can build a meaningful and challenging high school education that fits your own skills and interests.

### **Get the Support You Need to Excel**

AC has great expectations for all its students and offers high levels of support to help each student develop and thrive. Many teachers offer help at lunch or after school, and BHS offers free tutoring for most subjects. The open structure of AC gives students the ability to use one of their elective slots for 9th grade academic support without

falling behind on graduation or college preparatory requirements. Struggling students can take accelerated reading, for instance, in addition to 9th grade English, or two periods of math, and still have room in their schedules for science, world language, and history.

### **Become the Character You’ve Always Wanted to Be**

There are lots of ways to define success. What does it mean to you? We all have different strengths and interests—things we’re good at and areas we want to explore. As an Academic Choice student, you have the freedom to develop your strengths, discover where you excel and write your own definition of success. After all, it’s your story.

- Success might be learning Mandarin *and* Kiswahili while playing varsity volleyball...
- Or being the first in your family to go to college...
- It could mean you took several AP classes, dove into your extra-curriculars with passion and now your first-choice college is knocking on your door...
- Or that you performed with the Afro Haitian Dance class two years in a row and now you’re learning computer programming.

### **Become a Part of a Large, Diverse Community**

Academic Choice is the largest learning community in Berkeley High. You’ll find friends who share your interests and also meet new classmates with different experiences—a great opportunity to expand your world.

### **It’s Interesting and Exciting!**

Academic Choice offers the variety of a diverse urban high school, with outstanding academics, rich elective opportunities and talented teachers. As an AC student, you can build the high school experience that’s just right for you.

### **We welcome you to join AC!**

**You’ll be given the opportunities and support to discover where you excel.**

**Explore your interests and develop your strengths.  
Come write your own success story!**



<http://bhsacademicchoice.com/>