

Choices 2014-2015



**BERKELEY
HIGH SCHOOL**

Pasquale Scuderi
PRINCIPAL

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

AC
Academic Choice

AHA
Arts and Humanities Academy

AMPS
Academy of Medicine and Public Service

BIHS
Berkeley International High School

CAS
Communication Arts and Sciences

Green Academy
Sustainable Energy and Environmental Science Pathways

BIS
Berkeley Independent Study Program

BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL CHOICES

At Berkeley High School, it's all about making exciting, quality choices – lots of them!

Berkeley High School has a long history of embracing a broad spectrum of people and ideas. The programs offered to students both challenge and support them to reach high levels of academic achievement while preparing each graduate to be successful in college, career, and life. Following the Berkeley High lottery process, students can select from five quality academic programs that inspire and cultivate the gifts, talents, and passions of its students. Students also have the option of an off-campus Independent Study program.

Students request placement into one of our rigorous, college preparatory academic learning communities through the BHS lottery process. Three of our communities (AHA, AMPS, and CAS) are small schools of 240 students and open to 9th - 12th grade students. Two of our communities (AC and BIHS) are larger programs of 1000-1300. Green Academy is open to 12th graders only.

Students enrolled in any one of our **LEARNING COMMUNITIES — ACADEMIC CHOICE (AC), ARTS AND HUMANITIES ACADEMY (AHA), ACADEMY OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC SERVICE (AMPS), BERKELEY INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (BIHS), COMMUNICATION ARTS AND SCIENCES (CAS),** and the **GREEN ACADEMY (GRN)**—share a core group of teachers. All of the communities satisfy the *a-g* requirements for the University of California. All offer some AP or IB classes. The smaller learning communities also offer opportunities for students to do internships, and senior projects in a specific

college and career pathway. Students are required to fulfill each learning community's academic requirements. Other courses students have room for in their schedule are taken from the individual departments: African American Studies, Performing and Visual Arts, Physical Education, Science and World Languages.

Each Spring, at the same time they select classes, students have the opportunity to rank and submit their learning community preferences. A lottery held at the end of the spring semester (following diversity guidelines set by the Berkeley Unified School District) determines the learning community to which the student will be assigned.

Students also have the option of Berkeley Independent Study (BIS). BIS offers an academic option to the traditional classroom environment for students who prefer the flexibility and individualized format of independent study. Contact BIS at 644-8592 for more information.



9TH GRADE ACADEMIC PROGRAM COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR 2014-2015

Students enrolled in any learning community fulfill the program’s requirements within the community. All remaining courses needed to fulfill high school graduation and college eligibility requirements are chosen as **ELECTIVES** from the following individual departments: African American Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, Physical Education, Science, and World Languages.

▼ **ACADEMIC CHOICE (AC)**

- ▶ English Language & Composition
- ▶ World Geography & Culture/Ancient Civilizations
- ▶ Geometry*
- ▶ Advanced Biology
- ▶ Elective (Individual Departments)
- ▶ Elective (Individual Departments)

▼ **ARTS AND HUMANITIES ACADEMY (AHA)**

- ▶ Humanities: English
- ▶ Humanities: History
- ▶ Interactive Math 2*
- ▶ Advanced Biology
- ▶ Arts Wheel (for PE Credit)
- ▶ Elective (Individual Departments)

▼ **ACADEMY OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC SERVICE (AMPS)**

- ▶ English 1 A/B
- ▶ Community and Ethnic Studies
- ▶ Forensic Sciences
- ▶ Interactive Math 2
- ▶ PE
- ▶ Elective (Individual Departments)

▼ **BERKELEY INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (BIHS)**

- ▶ Freshman Literature & Composition
- ▶ Global Studies
- ▶ Performing or Creative Arts
- ▶ Geometry*
- ▶ Advanced Biology
- ▶ Elective (Individual Departments)

▼ **COMMUNICATION ARTS AND SCIENCES (CAS)**

- ▶ Freshman Seminar: English
- ▶ Freshman Seminar: History
- ▶ Interactive Math 2*
- ▶ Advanced Biology
- ▶ Elective (Individual Departments)
- ▶ Elective (Individual Departments)

▼ **GREEN ACADEMY (GRN)**

- ▶ Only available to 12th grade students

▼ **BERKELEY INDEPENDENT STUDIES (BIS)**

- ▶ English 1 A/B
- ▶ Ethnic Studies/Social Living
- ▶ Algebra/Geometry*
- ▶ Science
- ▶ PE
- ▶ Elective

C O N T A C T I N F O R M A T I O N

AHA

Arts and Humanities Academy

MAT GLASER matglaser@berkeley.net

SHANNON ERBY shannonerby@berkeley.net

AMPS

Academy of Medicine and Public Service

CLAUDIA GONZALES claudiagonzales@berkeley.net

Laurie Rodney lrodney@berkeley.net

CAS

Communication Arts and Sciences

HASMIG MINASSIAN hasmigminassian@berkeley.net

LEAH KATZ leahkatz@berkeley.net

Green Academy

Sustainable Energy & Environmental Pathways

DAGNY DINGMAN dagnydingman@berkeley.net

AC

Academic Choice

MATTHEW LAUREL matthewlaurel@berkeley.net

TIM ZOLEZZI timothyzolezzi@berkeley.net

BIHS

Berkeley International High School

MATT MEYER mattmeyer@berkeley.net

NICK PLESKAC nickpleskac@berkeley.net

BIS

Berkeley Independent Study

EDITH SMILEY edithsmiley@berkeley.net

TIFFANY WILLIAMS tiffanywilliams@berkeley.net

*Placement into Algebra I, Honors Geometry, or higher level math based on math department assessment.

ACADEMIC CHOICE

AC

Program Overview

Academic Choice (AC) is a learning community focusing on a rigorous humanities curriculum in grades nine through twelve. Freshmen and sophomore history and English courses are cored. AC students choose their science, world language, PE, math and arts electives from the full range of classes offered throughout Berkeley High. Academic Choice students are expected to complete all UC/CSU *a-g* course requirements prior to graduation, and are encouraged to take Advanced Placement (AP) courses in their junior and senior years. AC teachers support that expectation and work to ensure that their students are prepared to take AP courses. Students can choose to take AP classes in a variety of content areas as well as courses offered in various departments including the African American Studies Department. We also encourage AC students to take four years of math, and three years of science and world language.



Our Philosophy & Values

Academic Choice at BHS provides not only a college preparatory curriculum but also a community of students working with teachers, parents and peers to realize their full intellectual and creative potential. Academic Choice teachers, students, and families strongly believe that the program should reflect our diverse school population and that all students should have the resources to succeed in school and beyond. The typical Academic Choice class follows a seminar approach, encouraging intellectual curiosity, analytical thinking, and a close working relationship between student and teacher.



AC Ideal for students who want to:

- Choose from the widest possible list of electives, Advanced Placement classes, and courses of study: Challenge yourself academically and prepare for success in a 4-year college or university. AC offers academic support for all students
- Explore your interests and develop your strengths: Decide which subjects to study in depth. AC offers a rigorous program while providing you the most flexibility in course selection
- Study the complexities of our world
- Thrive in a diverse yet personalized learning community: Join a cohort of students in the 9th and 10th grade humanities classes and become part of a supportive community. Find friends who share your interests and learn from classmates with wide-ranging world views



Our Curriculum

Our humanities curriculum invites students to ask questions and draw inferences, to develop techniques for critical reading and expository writing, and to analyze and articulate different points of view. Student preparation for collegiate study is fundamental to our curricular philosophy, with an emphasis on the development of essential research skills (including critical analysis and synthesis, and the construction of persuasive written and verbal arguments). We not only seek to prepare students to be college eligible, but also to assist them in a highly competitive admissions process.

“AC is a very flexible program because it gives you the option to choose the program of your interest.”

— AC STUDENT

“We have a wonderful group of teachers and students with a supportive administrative staff.”

— AC TEACHER LEADER

Program Requirements

Students enrolled in AC fulfill the learning community’s requirements within AC. All remaining courses needed to fulfill high school graduation and college eligibility requirements are chosen as **ELECTIVES** from the following departments: African American Studies, Visual & Performing Arts, Physical Education, Science, and World Languages.

9TH GRADE	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ English Language & Composition (1A/1B) ▶ World Geography & Cultures/Ancient Civilizations ▶ Geometry* ▶ Advanced Biology ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ World Literature & Composition ▶ World History ▶ Algebra 2 ▶ Chemistry ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ American Literature OR AP Language & Comp. ▶ United States History or AP United States History or Afam History 1/2 ▶ Math Analysis ▶ Science Elective ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ English Elective ▶ History Elective ▶ Government/Gov Economics or AP Econ. ▶ Math or Elective ▶ Science or Elective ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.)

*Placement into Algebra I, Honors Geometry, or higher level math based on math department assessment.

ARTS & HUMANITIES ACADEMY

AHA

Program Overview

The Arts and Humanities Academy (AHA) provides an innovative, equitable, rigorous academic and arts curriculum. Students use the lens of the arts to seek creative solutions to academic and artistic challenges. In the first two years, students broaden their artistic expertise by taking a selection of visual and performing arts classes. In the 11th and 12th grades, students pursue mastery in the discipline of their choice and design an arts-based internship in the community, applying their interests as both artist and scholars. Senior thesis projects include academic and artistic presentations.

AHA students may select their world language and PE classes from the many options offered in the elective programs. AP options are available in English, math, science and world languages.

Our Philosophy & Values

AHA structures the core of our teaching on project-based learning and interdisciplinary endeavors. Classroom practices are creative and flexible, meeting the needs of all learners and building on the strengths of multiple intelligences. Students work collaboratively within an environment where the arts are the vehicle for creative and analytical thinking. We develop into members of society with the skills to write and think with our minds, create with our hands, express with our bodies, act and speak from our hearts, and inspire others to do the same.

“I quickly learned that there isn’t any right way to be an artist, that the only important thing is expression.”
—AHA STUDENT

“Our daughter is a recent graduate of AHA and is now attending the Rhode Island School of Design. Our family wanted to show appreciation for AHA where she was supported and encouraged to dream big.”
—FORMER AHA PARENT

AHA Ideal for students who want to:

- Graduate prepared for a 4-year college or university and continued pursuits in the arts
- Be in a community that celebrates the arts
- Collaborate with local artists and art institutions
- Participate in a creative classroom atmosphere
- Apply knowledge of the arts to a holistic understanding of the world





Our Curriculum

The Arts and Humanities Academy curriculum is designed to inspire greater levels of academic achievement by linking student interest and talent in the arts to all aspects of their educational experience. By tapping into their strengths as artists, teachers lead students to improve their overall skills in reading, writing and science. AHA is particularly concerned with bridging the achievement gap and providing a challenging curriculum for all of our students.



“It’s been exciting for me to work closely with other AHA teachers, community members and our amazingly creative students.”

—AHA TEACHER

Program Requirements

Students enrolled in AHA fulfill the learning community’s requirements within AHA. All remaining courses needed to fulfill high school graduation and college eligibility requirements are chosen as **ELECTIVES** from the following departments: African American Studies, Visual & Performing Arts, Physical Education, Science, and World Languages.

9TH GRADE	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Humanities: English ▶ Humanities: History ▶ Interactive Math 2* ▶ Advanced Biology ▶ Arts Wheel (for PE Credit) ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Humanities: World Lit. ▶ Humanities: World Hist. ▶ Interactive Math 3 ▶ Anatomy & Physiology ▶ Arts Wheel (for PE) ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ American Literature** ▶ United States History ▶ Interactive Math 4 ▶ Chemistry ▶ Arts Specialization ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Genre and Composition** ▶ Government/Economics ▶ Math or Elective ▶ BEST English/History ▶ Arts Specialization ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.)

* Placement into Algebra I, Honors Geometry, or higher level math based on math department assessment.
 ** Students can enroll in AHA AP Augmentation classes in their 11th and 12th grade English classes

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Program Overview

The Academy of Medicine and Public Service offers a college and career preparatory curriculum in – Health Science. Students interested in professions in health and social services are able to explore their interests while contributing to their community. AMPS provides many experiential learning opportunities through project-based curriculum, service learning and internships that extend student learning beyond the traditional framework.



Our Philosophy & Values

High school represents an important transition into adulthood – from a life planned by others to one planned by and for oneself. AMPS instills a sense of empowerment and future vision in our students, encouraging them to prevail and become agents of change. We prepare students to take the lead in their own lives and to contribute to the life of their communities, while challenging them to think critically and to increase their capacities to reach their fullest potential.

AMPS Ideal for students who want to:

- Be prepared for a 4-year college or university
- Explore career options in health, counseling, or social services through hands on service learning and internships
- Challenge themselves to develop their strengths and discover their hidden talents
- Participate actively in a strong, supportive learning community
- Take college classes and begin college programs while still in high school
- Participate in community service
- Be part of a supportive academic community

“AMPS is an opened door into this world”
– YESSICA LEON , FORMER AMPS STUDENT

“AMPS is a school of reality. It provides students of all backgrounds a chance to experience what college feels like”
– JAEALYN JOHNSON, FORMER AMPS STUDENT

“Students are provided with internship opportunities that help them develop into mature and responsible adults. Plus, it gives you an edge when it comes to college applications”
– YESENIA CANADA, CPA 2009, UCLA 2013



Our Curriculum

AMPS students core classes provide them with the skills, knowledge and resources to pursue their college and career goals, and meets the requirements for college admission into the UC/CSU system. AMPS' pathway, Health Science and Medical Technology, is supported by integrated curriculum in the core courses as well as by CTE courses that build knowledge and skills specific to health career fields. Using Public Health as an umbrella, teachers connect across subject areas with projects and thematic integration at each grade level. Writer Coaches work with students in ninth and tenth grade English classes to support strong writing skills, and AP English content is the basis of the 11th and 12th grade English curriculum. Juniors and seniors can take AP English Augmentation to get AP credit and prepare for the AP English exams at each grade level. We are committed to creating a school community in which all students are welcome, every student counts, and every student achieves.



Program Requirements

AMPS students fulfill our required core courses within the AMPS program. AMPS also sponsors courses that allow students in other programs to sample pathway offerings, including Theoretical Psychology/Sociology & Anthropology. All remaining courses needed to fulfill high school graduation and college eligibility requirements are chosen as electives from the following departments: African American Studies, Arts: Visual & Performing, Physical Education, and World Languages. AMPS students are clustered in Health and Public Service-related electives such as BioTechnology, Sports Medicine, AP Environmental Science, Honors Anatomy, AP Statistics, and Fire Science.

9TH GRADE	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ English 1A/1B ▶ Community & Ethnic Studies ▶ Interactive Math 2 ▶ Forensic Science ▶ PE ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ World Literature ▶ World History ▶ Interactive Math 3 ▶ Chemistry for Global Health ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ American Literature* ▶ United States History ▶ Interactive Math 4 ▶ Biological Health Science ▶ Comm. Serv. Professions ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) ▶ AP Literature Aug. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Composition/Writing* ▶ Government/Economics ▶ Emerg. Med. Careers, Sport Med., or Fire Science ▶ Comm. Serv. Professions ▶ Theoretical Psych/Soc ▶ Applied Medical English ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) ▶ AP Language Aug.

* Students can enroll in AMPS AP Augmentation classes in 11th and 12th grade English

BERKELEY INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Program Overview

Berkeley International High School (BIHS), an authorized International Baccalaureate school, is a program within Berkeley High School, focusing on international studies for grades nine through twelve. The integrated 4-year study of humanities focuses first on the study of geographical regions and elements of culture, including literature, art, history, economics and beliefs. It then progresses systematically through the study of nations and the dynamics of global relationships, building in complexity each year. Students will graduate with the knowledge and habits of mind to participate confidently in the increasingly interdependent world.

Our Philosophy & Values

The overarching goals of BIHS are to offer insights into the nature of international education and to build students' sense of identity and cultural awareness, fostering a spirit of discovery and enjoyment of learning for all BIHS students. Fundamental to the BIHS curriculum is developing the students' understanding of the nature and value of their own cultures. Students learn to approach academics from a variety of standpoints, and the curriculum furthers students' recognition and development of universal human values.

BIHS prepares all students to participate in the IB Diploma Programme in 11th and 12th grade. Balancing the richness of Berkeley High School's elective options with the value and challenge of the IB, BIHS creates a community of support, accessibility, and diversity of perspective. To this end we split the program into two smaller "houses" that allow teachers and students to work together in a more personalized way. Ninth grade students take three and tenth grade students take two of their classes with the same core of students to provide community and support.



BIHS

Ideal for students who want to:

- Be prepared for a 4-year college or university
- Be part of a learning community and still take elective courses within various departments within the high school
- Study subjects in depth and with perspective
- Actively participate in their learning through classroom based projects and discussions



Our Curriculum

The BIHS curriculum grades 9–12 is an integrated course of study in the history, culture, literature, artistic expression and political, economic and belief systems of nations across time and across the globe. All courses from BIHS meet the California Content Standards, IB Standards and UC/CSU entrance requirements. Students take three or four courses within BIHS; they select the remainder of their courses from individual departments (World Languages, P.E., African American Studies, Environmental Studies and Visual and Performing Arts). BIHS students may choose to earn Certificates or pursue the full IB Diploma in the 11th and 12th grades. All students take IB English and history in the 11th and 12th grades and can earn college credits through these and other courses.

Program Requirements

Students enrolled in BIHS fulfill the learning community’s requirements within BIHS. All remaining courses needed to fulfill high school graduation and college eligibility requirements are chosen as **ELECTIVES** from the following departments: African American Studies, Environmental Studies, Visual & Performing Arts, Physical Education, Science and World Languages.

“Our studies have affected the way I think about Muslim countries and culture. BIHS teachers have helped me rethink a lot of stereotypes that I used to have.”
—BIHS STUDENT

“BIHS was my first choice because I wanted to get a global understanding of the world. You don’t just listen to lectures or take notes but get an in-depth thinking of everything.”
—BIHS STUDENT

“In BIHS students gain an international perspective through literature, global studies, and elective choices that enable them to be critical thinkers and active participants in the world.”
— BIHS TEACHER

9TH GRADE	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Freshman Literature & Composition ▶ Global Studies ▶ Performing Arts or Creative Art ▶ Advanced Biology ▶ Geometry* ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Global Literature ▶ Global History ▶ Comparative Values & Belief Systems/ Comparative Political & Economic Systems ▶ Algebra 2 ▶ Science or Elective ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ IB English HL ▶ Hist of the Amer/Theory of Knowledge ▶ Math ▶ Science ▶ IB Economics SL, or IB Social and Cultural Anthro SL or Elective ▶ IB Art SL/HL or elective ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ IB English HL ▶ Hist of the Americas ▶ Theory of Knowledge/ American Government ▶ Math or Elective ▶ Science or Elective ▶ IB Economics SL, or IB Social and Cultural Anthro SL Elective ▶ IB Art SL/HL or Elective

* Placement into Algebra I, Honors Geometry, or higher level math based on math department assessment.

COMMUNICATION ARTS & SCIENCES

Program Overview

Communication Arts and Sciences (CAS) was founded in 1997 by teachers and families who had the goal of tapping into the rich diversity of Berkeley High students to create a heterogeneous learning community of 240 self-directed and independent learners. Distinguished by its focus on critical thinking, social justice, media literacy, and service learning, CAS offers an academically rigorous course of study and trains its students to communicate effectively in both print and electronic media through curriculum built around experiential learning – learning by doing. In addition to traditional forms of expression like fiction, essays, lab reports and research papers, students create their own videos, podcasts and print projects, and they travel to museums, theaters, cultural centers, colleges and to countries like Cuba, Mexico, Viet Nam, and Isreal /Palestine.

Our Philosophy & Values

When students commit to the four-year CAS curriculum, they voluntarily give up the safety of homogeneous learning and learn how to communicate, collaborate and excel within a diverse community. The curriculum and the faculty ensure an atmosphere of academic rigor while facilitating and respecting different learning styles and cultural experiences. To excel in CAS, a student must meet the dual challenges of intellectual mastery and effective communication in the classroom and in the larger world.



“Communication Arts and Sciences allows students to take ownership of their own education, to dispense with rote memorization in favor of critical thinking, to find a way to make a meaningful contribution to their community and to their future.”

— RICK AYERS, FORMER CAS TEACHER

CAS Ideal for students who want to:

- Be prepared for a 4-year college or university
- Learn to build a close community with other students and teachers in a more personal setting
- Incorporate real world experiences into their high school education
- Experience hands-on applications of all modern communication media and integrate this with academic classes
- Explore issues of social justice, social change and social responsibility
- Plan not only for college but for life



Our Curriculum

All CAS classes are untracked and, in keeping with this heterogeneous learning approach, Advanced Placement classes have been replaced with a demanding academic core and elective curriculum designed to challenge and engage every student. Classes are integrated with cross-disciplinary assignments and articulation between the grade levels. The English/History Core emphasizes written communication throughout the four-year curriculum and focuses on the development of critical thinking and analysis. CAS classes are challenging, benefiting students who have high achievement records as well as those who have struggled in school. The school's collaborative teaching model and close student-teacher relationships create an environment in which teachers are able to carefully assess student effort and performance and find ways to motivate and challenge each student to meet his/her full intellectual potential.



Program Requirements

Students enrolled in CAS fulfill the learning community's requirements within CAS. All remaining courses needed to fulfill high school graduation and college eligibility requirements are chosen as **ELECTIVES** from the following departments: African American Studies, Visual & Performing Arts, Physical Education, Science, and World Languages.

9TH GRADE	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Freshman Seminar: Eng. ▶ Freshman Seminar: Hist. ▶ Interactive Math 2* ▶ Advanced Biology ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ World Literature ▶ World History ▶ Interactive Math 3 ▶ Honors Human Anatomy ▶ Computer Arts ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ American Literature** ▶ United States History ▶ Interactive Math 4 ▶ Chemistry ▶ Art of Video Production ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Composition/Genre in Lit** ▶ Government/Economics ▶ BEST English/History: Social Justice Seminar ▶ Advanced Studio Editing or Advanced Digital Photography ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.) ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.)

* Placement into Honors Geometry or higher level math based on math department assessment.

** Students can enroll in CAS AP Augmentation classes in their 11th and 12th grade English classes

GREEN ACADEMY

GRN

Program Overview

Open only to seniors, the Green Academy's goal is to give students the foundational skills for understanding issues related to environmental sustainability and social justice. Students who wish to pursue Environmental Studies or careers related to the environment can take courses in this career pathway.

Our Philosophy & Values

Green Academy provides a personalized, interconnected learning environment where faculty members nurture and challenge students to strive for academic excellence.

Our mission is to: 1. Prepare students for college and green careers; 2. Prepare students to understand and actively engage in creating an environmentally sustainable and socially just world; 3. Provide educational and career opportunities in science and math to students who have been historically underrepresented in these fields. Graduates of the Green Academy will be prepared for college, be knowledgeable about social and environmental issues, and take personal responsibility for seeking change in themselves and in the world.

Our Curriculum

The exploration of social and ecological issues are embedded within a solid curriculum in mathematics, the sciences, and the humanities. Our integrated, project-based curriculum uses inquiry as a tool for students to see the interconnectedness of all academic disciplines and their relationship to the real world. Writing, which is integral to all humanities classes across the curriculum, focuses on fluency and revision. We support a community of readers to challenge students at a variety of levels. Math concepts are developed



through experimentation with real life situations using manipulatives. Science curriculum uses the scientific method to discuss and grapple with relevant pressing societal issues and explore possible solutions.

Program Requirements

Students enrolled in the Green Academy fulfill the learning community's requirements within the Green Academy. All remaining courses needed to fulfill high school graduation and college eligibility requirements are chosen as **ELECTIVES** from the following departments: African American Studies, Visual & Performing Arts, Physical Education, Science, and World Languages.

12TH GRADE

- ▶ Composition & Writing**
- ▶ Government/Economics
- ▶ Eco-Literacy/BEST History
- ▶ Elective
- ▶ Elective
- ▶ Elective (Ind. Depts.)

** Students can enroll in GRN AP Augmentation classes in their 12th grade English classes

BERKELEY INDEPENDENT STUDY

Program Overview

Berkeley Independent Study is an off-campus independent option for Berkeley High School students. Students do not select it as part of the BHS Lottery process but can request entry into the program by contacting Independent Study directly. BIS students benefit from having rigorous, creative and individualized instruction where they meet one-on-one with their instructors, or in small seminars. Teachers incorporate students' interests and skill levels into their major assignments as appropriate, in addition to teaching the standard core curriculum. Students enjoy our informal, relaxed environment where they learn to engage in academic dialogue and get direct teacher feedback on their assignments, as there is no opportunity to sit in the back of the classroom. BIS also has a long tradition of students who pursue athletic, musical or artistic endeavors outside of school, which is possible due to the flexible schedule we can provide. Many BIS students develop their motivation, interests and skills as readers, writers, researchers and problem solvers as a result the individualized format, flexibility and personalized attention they receive here, which serves them well as they go on to pursue their collegiate and professional futures.

“The self-discipline of studying independently is excellent preparation for college.”
— BIS STUDENT

“I’ve really learned how to learn, and learned how to love learning.”
— BIS STUDENT

“The teachers at BIS are willing to tailor the curriculum. That means I can study more deeply the things that really interest me.”
— BIS STUDENT



BIS

Ideal for students who want to:

- Be self starters and happy to move things along at a quicker pace
- Have a flexible schedule
- Pursue demanding artistic, athletic or other creative pursuits
- Take college courses
- Prefer an individualized education in an intimate environment
- Have a job or other day-time responsibility, such as child-care
- Want more support for succeeding in school in spite of health issues



Berkeley High School

1980 ALLSTON WAY
BERKELEY, CA 94704
(510) 644-6120
FAX(510) 548-4221