

PROFILE OF BLACKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

2019-2020

Principal

Dr. Timothy Baynum

Blacksburg High School

3401 Bruin Lane

Blacksburg, VA 24060

Main Office: (540) 951-5706

FAX (540) 951-5714

Counseling Office: (540) 951-5715

FAX (540) 951-5778

School Counselors

Deborah Combs

Chad Cox, Lead Counselor

Emily Dwoyer

Shelley Blumenthal

Carolyn Noble, Administrative Assistant

Tammy Wright, Registrar

Erica Sheppard, Testing Assistant

Mary Madeline Webster, Career Coach

9th - 12th Grades, A - D

9th - 12th Grades, E - L

9th - 12th Grades, M - R

9th - 12th Grades, S - Z

Assistant Principals

Guylene Wood-Setzer

Adam Simpson

Melissa Hipple

CEEB Number: 470225

Department of Education Number: 0760

SCHOOL: Blacksburg High School is a comprehensive school with a wide range of academic and career and technical education courses, and 1,280 students. Historically, approximately 90% of the graduates attend college upon graduation - 70% to four-year colleges. Virginia Tech, the largest university in Virginia, is located in Blacksburg, a town with a population of 43,000. Academic excellence is shown by College Board and state test scores, and encouraged by great parental interest and support. Blacksburg High School won the Wells Fargo Cup for Academics in 2018-19, 2016-17, and 2014-15 and has won the Wells Fargo Cup for athletics ("the state champions' state champion") on fourteen occasions since 1989-1990 including 2018-19, 2017-2018 and seven of the past nine years.

ACCREDITATION: Blacksburg High School, a public secondary school, is accredited by the Virginia Department of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

SENIOR RECOGNITION: Beginning with the Class of 2019, Montgomery County Public Schools does not calculate a numerical class rank. Seniors who have attained the same levels of achievement will be recognized as follows:

Distinguished Scholar: GPA of 4.0 and above

Scholar: GPA of 3.80 – 3.99

Honor Graduate: GPA of 3.60 – 3.79

Calculating Grade Point Average (GPA)

MCPS will calculate Grade Point Average (GPA) for each high school student using a four-point system for all high school credit courses (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0). The number of credits earned for each course will be multiplied by the numerical value of the final course grade to obtain the number of grade points earned for each course. The total grade points earned will be divided by the total credits attempted to determine each student's GPA (rounded to two decimal places). All high school courses are included in the calculation of grade point average, including subjects failed, and are computed on a 4.0 scale, with the exception of Driver's Education and any Pass/Fail course. Secondary school courses taken in middle school and on the transcript are included in grade average.

Additional Grade Points for Advanced Courses

For each passing grade earned in an advanced course (Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, and approved courses taken at an accredited college/university), students will be awarded one additional grade point. The total additional grade points will be divided by 32, and the result will be added to the GPA. The resulting GPA will be comparable to a "weighted GPA" using a five-point system (A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2, F=0). When calculated, the final GPA will be rounded to two decimal places.

For the purpose of college admission, first semester senior year grades will be mailed (when requested) in mid-February.

TRANSCRIPT NOTATIONS:

-R = No credit for courses repeated that were previously passed

DL or **V** = Distance Learning or Virtual

AP = Advanced Placement

H = Honors

DE = Dual Enrollment and Collegiate/University Courses

AP COURSES: Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Computer Science Principles, Statistics, Chemistry (2 class blocks), Biology (2 class blocks), Physics (2 class blocks), Environmental Science (2 class blocks), European History, U.S. History, U.S. Government and Politics, World History: Modern, English Language and Composition (11th Grade), English Literature and Composition (12th Grade), Psychology, three Art courses, Spanish, French, Seminar, and Research

VIRTUAL VIRGINIA AP COURSES: English Literature, English Language and Composition, Human Geography, World History, US History, US and Comparative Government and Politics, European History, Statistics, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Physics 1, Physics 2, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Chinese Language and Culture, French, Spanish, Latin: Vergil, Psychology, Art History

AP SCORES: Scores three or higher: 2014 - 86% 2015 - 91% 2016 - 82% 2017 - 88% 2018 – 85% 2019 - 89%

SAT CUMULATIVE MEAN SCORES: 2017 = 1,220 2018 = 1,236 2019 = 1,184

HONORS AND ADVANCED COURSES: *Dual Enrollment Transfer Courses with New River Community College:* Math DE Calculus (since 2014-2015), English 111-112-English Composition I-II (11th or 12th grades), English 243-244-Survey of English Literature I-II (12th grade), DE Chemistry started in 2019-20, Human Anatomy and Physiology started in 2019-20; English 9 Honors, English 10 Honors; Geography and History of the World I Honors and II Honors. In addition, Honors Biology I, Honors Chemistry I, Honors Earth Science, Geometry Honors, Algebra II Honors, Math Analysis/Pre-Calculus Honors (name changed to Math Analysis in 2014-2015). Also, Physics I, Biology II: Advanced Survey (Botany/Zoology), Calculus (prior to 2014-2015), and four years of foreign language (French, Latin, and Spanish may also be taken in 8th grade; and Spanish VI is offered for those with high school credit in 7th and 8th grades).

HIGHEST LEVEL COURSES OFFERED: Art - AP Art courses; English - AP English Language and Composition (11th Grade), AP English Literature and Composition (12th Grade), DE English Composition (11th or 12th grade), and DE Survey of English Literature (12th grade); Mathematics – DE Calculus (since 2014-15), AP Calculus AB / DE (2017-18 initial year), AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Computer Science (since 2015-16), and AP Statistics, DE Pre-Calculus and Calculus (prior to 2014-15), DE Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry; Social Studies - AP European History, AP World History, AP United States History, AP Government (AP U.S. Government and Politics), AP Psychology; Physical Science (2 blocks and credits) - AP Physics, DE/AP Chemistry; Biological Science (2 blocks and credits) - AP Biology, AP Environmental Science, DE Human Anatomy and Physiology started in 2019-20; Foreign Languages – American Sign Language IV, AP French, German IV, AP Latin through Virtual Virginia, AP Spanish and Spanish VI. Also, AP Seminar starting in 2018-19, AP and DE Research in 2019-20. New River Community College Dual Enrollment courses are only available to juniors and seniors except with special permission under extenuating circumstances.

CURRICULUM: The curriculum at Blacksburg High School offers a rigorous college-preparatory track for college-bound students and a wide selection of career and technical and work training courses. Talents and skills are developed through a variety of academic work in: art, music, theater, career and technical education, work and family studies, and various trade and industrial courses. Special education is provided, and faculty, peer, and student tutorial assistance are available free to students. Students may apply for a limited number of slots in the Southwest Virginia Governor's School half day STEM program for 11th and 12th grades.

Southwest Virginia Governor's School

Students who meet established criteria in science and mathematics may apply to attend the SWVGS in Dublin, Virginia. Students attend SWVGS in the morning and return to their home school in the afternoon. All classes taken at SWVGS are dual enrolled with New River Community College.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: Candidates for graduation are required to earn a minimum of 22 units of credit in grades 9-12. Eighteen of the 22 are specified. The Advanced Studies Diploma (26 credits) is available for those who meet requirements of 22 specified courses including foreign language.

KEY TO GRADING SYSTEM

A = 90 - 100

B = 80 - Less than 90

C = 70 - Less than 80

D = 60 - Less than 70

F = Below 60

P = Pass (used for students taking courses outside the United States; also home schooled student transfer courses and courses transferred from non-accredited schools). Credit may be awarded based on successful performance by examination. Pass/Fail grades are not included in grade average. Recently, Economics and Personal Finance credit was evaluated with pass/fail and returned to A-F evaluations in 2019-20.

Class of 2019

Number of graduates: 308

Applied Studies Diploma: 8

Advanced Studies Diploma: 215

Standard Diploma: 87

Percent continuing their education: 90% -- (62% to 4-Year institutions, 28% to 2-Year institutions)