Career Pathways

Beginning with the class of '09, Bucksport High School has developed a series of *Career Pathways* courses to help our students bridge the gap between high school and their post-secondary plans. Beginning with *Freshman Focus*, and continuing with *Sophomore Selections and Junior Judgments*, students will engage in career exploration and post-secondary planning on a regular basis. Whether they plan on a four-year college, technical school, or on-the-job training, we hope to help them connect their learning to possible careers of interest.

Freshman Focus is a course for freshmen that will focus on study skills, problem solving, teaming skills and career exploration. Freshmen students will be provided with an academic planner for recording homework assignments and maintaining a daily schedule. Activities and suggestions for managing time to meet the new demands of high school will also be emphasized.

Freshmen will learn strategies to help them become successful learners through:

- Engaging in self-assessment inventories
- Discovering their preferred learning styles
- Evaluating and improving study habits
- Learning strategies that help them retain and use new information
- Improving test-taking outcomes & coping with test anxiety

Incorporated into the curriculum will also be other important skills freshmen will need, including:

- Teaming
- Problem solving
- Goal setting
- Conflict resolution

There will also be a career exploration component that helps students identify current academic interests with possible careers, building on this base each year.

½ credit Grade 9

Sophomore Selections is a continuation of Freshman Focus, which allows students to develop an electronic portfolio with the education/career data they began developing as Freshmen. Students meet twice a week for forty minutes, and continue building knowledge of their strengths, weaknesses, and record of accomplishments. As they do an in-depth research on occupations, our goal is in

helping them select an educational and career pathway that will meet their individual needs.

Students then research several sites that clarify the skills which they will need to be employed in their chosen occupation(s). The sites may consist of colleges, universities, technical colleges or other means of training. Students also research financial aid opportunities which could be available to them. All completed work then goes to their file in Guidance, where they will discuss and decide on a post-secondary plan.

½ credit Sophomores

Junior Judgments: Students will continue to explore their post-secondary goals, and narrow down the college/employment choices most appealing to them. They will develop knowledge of the pathway their interests encompass, and chart out the skills and education they will need to reach their goals.

They also will also learn about the trends in employment opportunities, and the major laws which will impact their successful employment. Students will be introduced to Occupational Safety and Health laws and how Workers Compensation and Unemployment laws impact them. Students will also look at how retirement might look in their chosen field. This should be helpful to students who may hold part time jobs while attending college or entering the work force as full time employees.

½ credit Juniors

Requirements for Graduation
2008-2009

1. Students must earn **24 credits** to graduate.

2. All students must earn the following credits and fulfill the requirements below for graduation:

English - **4 credits**

Math - **4 credits**

Science - **3 credits**
(1 must be in Biology)

Social Studies **3 Credits**
(US History I, US History II, and World Studies)

Fine Arts - **1 credit**

Health - **1 credit**

Physical Education - 1 credit (maximum of 2 credits may be earned)

Maine Studies Requirement - (Most students meet this requirement in Middle School. Those students who still need to meet this requirement will be notified.)

Computer Proficiency

3. Each student must be enrolled in a **minimum of six (6) credit courses** with an eight-period schedule.

HANCOCK COUNTY TECHNICAL CENTER
Technical/Career Education

After successfully completing two to three years at Bucksport High School, students who are interested have the opportunity to complete their high school education at the Hancock County Technical Center (H.C.T.C.) There are several "hands-on" courses of study that are available, and a bus to take Bucksport students back and forth each day.

After attaining the required number of credits for graduation (24), students will graduate with a diploma from Bucksport High School.

Below are the programs available at H.C.T.C.:

Automotive Technology;
Building Trades
Certified Nurses Aide Plus
Carpentry
Computer Technology
Culinary Arts I
Culinary Arts II
Diesel/Heavy Equipment Technology I
Diesel/Heavy Equipment Technology II
Intro to Film/TV Production
Advanced Film/TV Production
Hospitality
Heavy Equipment (Industrial-Marine)
Health Occupations
Diversified Occupations (Special Education): full year, 1-4 year program as needed
Technical English Composition: full year, 1 credit, Grade 12
Business Technology

For more information on these programs, please see the Guidance Department.