



BALTIMORE SCHOOL
for the **ARTS**

Every Artist is a Scholar

The Academic Program at Baltimore School for the Arts

Although academics are not considered at the auditions for BSA, once students are admitted, they must all pursue a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum and meet all of the requirements of the State of Maryland and Baltimore City Public Schools.

Our academic faculty is a select group of certified teachers skilled at communicating knowledge and sharing the joy of learning. It is their goal to both challenge and support their students who come to BSA with a wide range of abilities and academic experiences.

Through a variety of courses and initiatives we are able to meet the needs of all of our students and help to provide each with an academic foundation that will equip them for higher education, careers, and life.

Academic Support

Beginning with placement testing to assess incoming students academically, a range of support services are an important resource for any and all students who require help with BSA's challenging curriculum. Programs include:

- summer academic assistance
- supervised study hall
- sophomore enrichment
- Saturday school
- coach classes

Advanced Study

For students who seek a very challenging course of study, there are opportunities to pursue advanced work in honors classes, in seminar-style classes like American Studies, and in AP courses.

Honors classes include:

- English
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Spanish

AP courses include:

- English Language and Composition
- English Literature and Composition
- Calculus
- Spanish
- Music Theory
- Art History

Recognition for advanced work includes the Dean's List, Honor Roll, National Honor Society, and ultimately the BSA Certificate of Achievement at graduation.

Test Preparation & College Counseling

College counseling is an integral part of each student's education. Students work closely with BSA's college counselor and their academic and arts teachers throughout their tenure. Each student takes the PSAT several times so that those needing additional preparation can be identified early. Free SAT test preparation is offered to all students in the fall of senior year and to juniors in the spring. Preparation for other mandated tests, such as the HSA and PARCC tests, is also offered to students in need.

BSA graduates attend some of the most highly regarded higher education institutions in the country and/or pursue the arts at the finest programs for their disciplines of choice. Each year, students receive generous financial aid and scholarship packages including admission to some of Maryland's leading honors and scholarship programs.



Nationally Recognized and Ranked

Over the years, BSA has been recognized by numerous organizations, and students have earned top academic honors including a National Merit Scholarship winner in 2015. In the 2014-15 school year, 100% of seniors earned admission to colleges and universities with more than \$11 million in merit and scholarship aid. The school was also nationally ranked by two prominent organizations:



The *U.S. News Best High Schools* rankings, produced in conjunction with the American Institutes for Research, published detailed information on more than 19,000 public high schools, including school-specific data on enrollment, ethnicity, location, school type and results of state assessment proficiency tests and Advanced Placement tests. BSA ranked #1,907 overall, in the top 10% nationally, earning a silver medal.



The Daily Beast reached out to the nation's best high schools to find out which were turning out the top students. They compared schools by graduation and college acceptance rates, as well as their academic rigor using AP classes and test scores, and finally, student performance on college admission exams. BSA was placed in the Top 100 in the survey's College Bound category and ranked #167 overall, in the top 14%.



BSA Graduation Requirements

A student is promoted to the next grade when he or she has earned the credits necessary to complete the graduation requirements of the State of Maryland and Baltimore City Public Schools. In Maryland, a student is required to attend high school for four years after completing the eighth grade, a condition that does not allow for early graduation.

Courses	Credit Required
• English	4
• Mathematics	4
• Science	3
• Social Studies	3
• Foreign Language*	2
• Foundation of Technology in the Arts	1
• Health	.5
• Physical Education	.5

*The two-year Foreign Language requirement demands that the same language is studied for two years.

At BSA, students are required to spend four periods in academics and four periods in the arts each semester. Students in 9th, 10th and 11th grades must be enrolled in at least four academic courses except under specific direction of the Assistant Principal for Academics.