



## SCHOOL PROFILE 2023-2024

### BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY

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CEEB School Code: 460140

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*Bellows Free Academy is committed to ensuring all students become informed, literate, critical thinkers who demonstrate responsible social and civic behaviors.*



## SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Bellows Free Academy - Fairfax (BFA-Fairfax) is a comprehensive PreK-12 school system with approximately 940 students of which **270 are in grades 9-12**. The system consists of three levels: elementary, middle and high school. Each level has its own unique curriculum for the developmental stage of the students. The curriculum is aligned with National Standards (i.e. Common Core, C3 and NextGen Science) for scope and sequence. BFA-Fairfax is located in a small Vermont community with a population of approximately 5000. It is situated 30 miles northeast of Burlington, Vermont's largest city. Residents are employed in small business and agriculture and commute to positions in manufacturing, business, education and the professions in the Greater Burlington Area.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM

In accordance with the State of Vermont law, students in the Class of 2020 and beyond meet our **Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements** in order to graduate. Each content area has determined specific skills that are essential for students to know, understand, and be able to do within their discipline. Proficiencies are broad categories. Examples include Geometry, Writing, Historical Inquiry and Analyze & Interpret Data. Each Proficiency is further defined by a set of Indicators that provide additional detail regarding what students should know, understand and be able to do. Content Indicators and Transferable Skills (life and career skills that are essential outcomes for students) are clearly specified for each learning activity. Learning Scales define learning and map growth toward Proficiency. Feedback, reflection, and formative assessments inform instruction prior to summative assessment. Click the link below for more information about proficiency - based learning at BFA-Fairfax.

<https://sites.google.com/fwsu.org/bfa-fairfax-proficiency-guide>

The academic format is based on a **block scheduling** system. All classes meet daily for 70 minutes. Beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, most classes are one trimester in length while some are two trimesters or full year. Prior to 2023-2024 classes were semester, quarter or year long.

BFA - Fairfax is committed to offering a wide variety of **flexible learning opportunities** for our students. Students may enroll concurrently in local college courses for high school and college credits (Dual Enrollment). Sophomores, juniors and seniors have the opportunity to enroll in technical education programs at Essex (CTE), Burlington (BTC) and Northwest (NCTC) technical centers. The students who enroll in technical programs must complete BFA graduation requirements and tech program requirements. Students may also gain proficiency through: Do Unto Others (DUO) program designed for community service opportunities, online courses through Vermont Virtual Learning Collaborative (VTVLC) and PLATO Online, as well as Independent Studies (IS).

**AP** courses are offered in Calculus AB, English Language, English Literature, Government & Politics (every other year), Music Theory (new this year), Psychology and U.S. History (every other year).

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must demonstrate proficiency in the following areas:

- English Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- Global Citizenship
- Phys. Ed. & Health
- Artistic Expression
- Transferable Skills (Clear & Effective Communication, Self-Direction, Problem Solving, Responsible & Involved Citizenship & Integrative Thinking)

## RECOMMENDED COURSES

To ensure that BFA students have the opportunity to meet our Proficiency-based Graduation Requirements, we strongly recommend the following courses:

- 3 Science Courses
- Math 1, Math 2 & Math 3
- 4 English/ELA Courses
- 4 Global Citizenship/Social Studies Courses
- Health, PE 1, PE 2
- Two courses in Artistic Expression (Visual, Music, or Performing Arts)

## GRADUATION WITH DISTINCTION

Students have the opportunity to graduate with distinction in the following areas by completing certain course and co-curricular requirements: *STEM, Arts, Humanities, Leadership, Renaissance & Career Readiness*

## EXPLANATION OF TRANSCRIPT AND GRADING SYSTEM

### PROFICIENCY GRADE SCALE

Proficiency Score	Proficiency Level	Conversion to Traditional Scale
3.6-4	Extended	A+
2.6-3.5	Proficient	B+ to A
1.6-2.5	Making Progress	C to B
1-1.5	Insufficient Evidence	F to D

**Class Rank:** BFA-Fairfax does not use class rank.

**Weighting:** Classes at BFA-Fairfax are un-weighted.

**Content Area Overall Proficiency Levels:** Located on the left side of the first page of the transcript indicate the current, cumulative proficiency level by content area.

**Cumulative Overall Proficiency Level:** Located on the right side of the first page of the transcript. This is an overall average of the content area proficiency levels. **This is not a GPA and should not be viewed on a traditional 4.0 scale.**

**Course and Content Area Proficiency Levels by Year:** Located on the second page and organized by year. Course proficiency level is the overall proficiency level for that course. Content area proficiency level is overall proficiency level for all courses taken in that content area that year.

## CLASS OF 2024 in NUMBERS

Number of Students in Class: 77

Highest Overall Proficiency Level (as of Sept 2023): 3.8  
Average Overall Proficiency Level(as of Sept 2023): 3

Mean SAT Score 1093  
(Spring 2023 SAT. 25 test takers included in this mean)

Percent of Class who took AP Exams  
(Spring 2023): 25%  
(Percent Earning "3" or better: 82%)

Percent of Class who have taken at least one Dual Enrollment College course in 22-23 school year: 32%

## COURSE OFFERINGS

<p><b>English/ELA</b></p> <p>Global English*</p> <p>American Dream**</p> <p>Comparing Lit &amp; Film</p> <p>Contemporary Lit</p> <p>Creative NonFiction</p> <p>College Writing</p> <p>Creative Writing</p> <p>Ghost Stories</p> <p>Graphic Novels</p> <p>Heroes &amp; Villains</p> <p>Historical Fiction</p> <p>Holocaust Studies</p> <p>Poetry &amp; Short Story</p> <p>Public Speaking</p> <p>Sports Literature</p> <p>Young Adult Lit</p> <p>Writing for Careers</p> <p>AP English Literature</p> <p>Advanced Language***</p> <p>AP English Language</p> <p><i>*Interdisciplinary: English 9 and Global Studies</i></p> <p><i>**Interdisciplinary: English 10 &amp; US History</i></p> <p><i>***Concurrent dual enrollment course with Community College of Vermont</i></p>	<p><b>Global Citizenship/Social Studies</b></p> <p>Global English*</p> <p>American Dream**</p> <p>U.S. History</p> <p>Ancient Empires</p> <p>College Economics</p> <p>Criminal Justice</p> <p>Current Events</p> <p>Heroes &amp; Villains</p> <p>Know Your Rights</p> <p>Markets &amp; Investing</p> <p>Native American History</p> <p>Psychology</p> <p>Philosophy</p> <p>Senior Civics</p> <p>Sports &amp; Society</p> <p>The Human Story</p> <p>The World Wars</p> <p>Vermont History</p> <p>World History (Ancient &amp; Modern)</p> <p>AP U.S. History</p> <p>AP Government &amp; Politics</p> <p>AP Psychology</p> <p>College Economics***</p> <p><i>* Interdisciplinary: English 9 and Global Studies</i></p> <p><i>**Interdisciplinary: English 10 &amp; US History</i></p> <p><i>***Concurrent dual enrollment course with Community College of Vermont</i></p>	<p><b>Science</b></p> <p>Earth &amp; Space Science</p> <p>Physical Science (Forces &amp; Motion and Intro Chem)</p> <p>Life Science (Ecology &amp; Evolution and Heredity &amp; Genetics)</p> <p>Advanced Bio (Lab)</p> <p>Anatomy &amp; Physiology (Lab)</p> <p>Astronomy</p> <p>Botany (Lab)</p> <p>Environmental Science</p> <p>Farm to School</p> <p>Forensic Science</p> <p>Chemistry 1A (Lab)</p> <p>Chemistry 1B (Lab)</p> <p>Physics 1A (Lab)</p> <p>Physics 1B (Lab)</p> <p>Wildlife Biology (Lab)</p> <hr/> <p><b>Math</b></p> <p>Math 1</p> <p>Math 2</p> <p>Math 3</p> <p>Advanced Math (Math 4 &amp; Math 5)</p> <p>Pre-Calculus</p> <p>Modeling with Mathematics</p> <p>Financial Literacy</p> <p>Additional Topics in Financial Literacy</p> <p>EMC (Essential Math for College &amp; Career)</p> <p>Geometry Applications</p> <p>Statistical Applications</p> <p>Calculus</p> <p>AP Calculus (AB)</p> <p>Advanced Calculus</p>	<p><b>Artistic Expression</b></p> <p>Foundations in Art</p> <p>The Art of Craft</p> <p>Intro to Graphic Design</p> <p>Digital Media Arts</p> <p>Studio Art</p> <p>Intro to Jewelry Making</p> <p>Ceramics</p> <p>Digital Photography</p> <p>Advanced Studio Art</p> <p>Band (Concert &amp; Jazz)</p> <p>Chorus</p> <p>Chamber Choir</p> <p>History of Rock &amp; Roll</p> <p>AP Music Theory</p> <p>Exploring the Maker's Space</p> <p>Introduction to HTML, CSS, and Javascript Coding</p> <p>Using Unity to Create Interactive Games</p> <hr/> <p><b>World Languages</b></p> <p>French Novice(I &amp; II)</p> <p><i>(Also titled French Foundations 1 &amp; 2)</i></p> <p>French Intermediate</p> <p><i>(Also titled French Foundations 3)</i></p> <p>French Conversation for Travel</p> <p>Spanish Novice (I &amp; II)</p> <p><i>(Also titled Spanish Foundations 1 &amp; 2)</i></p> <p>Spanish Intermediate</p> <p><i>(Also titled French Foundations 3)</i></p> <p>Mandarin Novice/Foundations</p> <hr/> <p><b>Physical Education/Health</b></p> <p>Fitness &amp; Nutrition</p> <p>Physical Education I &amp; II</p> <p>Alternative PE</p> <p>Health</p>
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