

# BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL 2010-2011

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## THE TOWN OF BEDFORD

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Bedford, Massachusetts is a community of approximately 13,000 people, located fourteen miles northwest of Boston. A typical New England town in architecture, government, and traditions, Bedford is proud of its historic past. Bedford is equally proud of its current residents' progressive support for town government and education. Located near Route 128, Bedford is a center of high technology. Hanscom Air Force Base, which borders Bedford, is an acknowledged leader in aerospace research and is an integral part of Bedford's social and technological vitality. Middlesex Community College, part of the state's tiered system of colleges and universities, is located in Bedford and serves as an excellent academic resource for our students.

## BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

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Bedford High School is proud of its record of student achievement, the education and training of its faculty, and its pursuit of excellence in education. A comprehensive, four-year school, Bedford High is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (N.E.A.S.C.). Enrollment is growing and is currently at 783, with a senior class of 179. **Boston Magazine recently ranked Bedford High School as sixth in a list of top high schools in Massachusetts.** Bedford's student-faculty ratio is 11.5:1, and 76% of the faculty holds an advanced degree. Its medium size offers the best of both worlds: Bedford High is large enough to offer great curricular breadth, and small enough for each student to be known as an individual. Our challenging curriculum is enriched by a caring, collaborative and creative faculty, a vibrant music and arts program, and a vigorous athletic program. We are committed to both stretching and supporting each student academically, personally, and socio-emotionally. Our average SAT scores each year (1711 SAT score out of 2400 for the class of 2010) are consistently well above the state and national averages. The Class of 2011 MCAS passing rate on the first attempt was 99% for English and 97% for Math. Ninety-three percent of students in grade 10 in 2008-9 achieved a Proficient or Advanced on the English MCAS, and ninety-two percent achieved a Proficient or Advanced in the Math MCAS.

Within a traditional New England town setting, the high school helps to bring the greater world into Bedford: our racial and socio-economic diversity is unusually rich for a suburban town. Bedford has long served as the high school not only for children of the town, but also for children of Hanscom Air Force Base military personnel. These students comprise 15% of Bedford High's enrollment. Many have lived all over the United States and the world, and enrich the school with their points of view and experiences. In addition, the METCO program brings students from Boston to Bedford at every grade level. Bedford High School has just completed an extensive renovation. All school and community members are proud of our beautiful, larger state-of-the-art building for teaching and learning.

# Bedford High School Mission Statement

The mission of Bedford High School is to educate all students in a nurturing, democratic, challenging, and inclusive environment. Bedford High School, in partnership with parents and the community, helps students attain the knowledge and develop the skills and intellectual curiosity to become independent and self-sufficient adults who will contribute responsibly in a global community. By providing opportunities for students to create meaning and to develop understanding in a variety of contexts, Bedford High School prepares students to grow and to act in a well-informed, creative, ethical, and compassionate manner.

## A Rigorous and Supportive School

To these ends, Bedford High School provides a rigorous and supportive education to students at every academic level. During the junior and senior years, our Level 5 classes are designed to provide a level of depth and complexity that is equivalent to introductory college classes.

Where needed, the faculty creates the appropriate scaffolding to enable all students to achieve our academic expectations. The school supplements this differentiated instruction with a range of programs designed to support academic achievement.

## Sampling of Recent Competitive Achievements

- National History Day Competition: First and Second Place Winners at state level
- Mass. Math Leagues Meet: Seventh in state
- Chess League North Shore Interscholastic Champions
- Science Olympiad: Ninth in state
- Brain Bee Third place
- Mass Envirothon Fifth Place
- Women of Science Competition, Seventh of Twenty-five in state
- Boston Globe Scholastic Art Exhibit: 3 Gold Keys, 5 Silver Keys, 2 Honorable Mentions at state level. One Silver Key at national level
- Music ensembles participated in Northeastern Music Festival

## Bedford High School students will be:

### 1. Active Learners – *engaged in the quest for knowledge and understanding*

Students will:

- understand and use what they learn
- read actively and purposefully
- engage in inquiry and self-directed learning
- use feedback and self-reflection to extend learning

### 2. Resourceful Thinkers – *engaged in solving problems, making meaning and developing understanding*

Students will:

- employ creative thinking skills
- employ critical thinking skills
- evaluate frames of reference
- make meaningful connections
- conduct analytical research

### 3. Effective Communicators – *engaged in sharing information, insights, and ideas*

Students will:

- present in oral and written form with clarity, purpose, and understanding
- express knowledge and skills creatively using a variety of media, technology and the arts
- engage effectively in discussion

## Social and Civic Expectations

Bedford High School students will:

- ❖ act with integrity, respect, and responsibility towards themselves, others, and the environment
- ❖ value cultural diversity and recognize global interdependence
- ❖ practice the democratic principles of tolerance, activism, responsibility for and service to one's community
- ❖ think independently and work cooperatively to achieve goals and resolve issues

## CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL GROUPING

All students are fully scheduled and receive 990 hours of classroom instruction per year. Bedford is on a six-day cycle, rotating block schedule of full year courses. (The only exception is the Health/Physical Education semester combination.) There are five 70-minute classes each day. A typical student schedule would include five, 5 credit courses in English, math, science, social studies and world language, and four, 2.5 credit courses in physical education and health, art, music, occupational education, and other subjects.

Every course at Bedford High is assigned a level from 1 to 5. **Levels 3, 4, and 5 are college preparatory levels. Level 5 is the honors and AP level. The highest level offered in a given subject, however, is sometimes a level 3 or 4. Please consult the enclosed listing of all courses in the Program of Studies for this information.** Our levels reflect increasing expectations of classroom academic intensity, outside work, and levels of intellectual independence. Students are encouraged to aspire to the highest level possible.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A total of 110 credits is required for graduation, which must include:

Subject	Required years	Credits	Subject	Required years	Credits
English	4	20	Art	1	2.5
Math	3	15	Music	1	2.5
Science	3	15	Occupational Education	1	2.5
Social Studies	3	15	Physical Education and Health Education	4	10.0
World Language	1	5			

## GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND CLASS RANK

Class rank is calculated at the end of the sixth and seventh semesters, and is determined by the weighted grade point average. All courses with a numerical grade from grades 9, 10, and 11 will be used in these calculations. For 5 credit courses, each final grade in levels 3, 4, and 5 is weighted. All 2.5 credit courses are weighted at level 3 for calculation purposes. All final grades are then multiplied by the number of credits assigned to the course. The sum of these products is then divided by the total number of credits attempted, to arrive at the weighted grade point average.

**Class rank is reported in 5 percent units. The 5<sup>th</sup> percent is the highest 5 percent rank, and the 100th percent is the lowest 5 percent rank. Students in the top 1 and 2 percent of the graduating class will also be identified as top 1 and 2 percent. Class rank will be reported on the student's transcript along with the weighted GPA, unweighted GPA, and final grades. (Senior year grades will be reported by quarters.)**

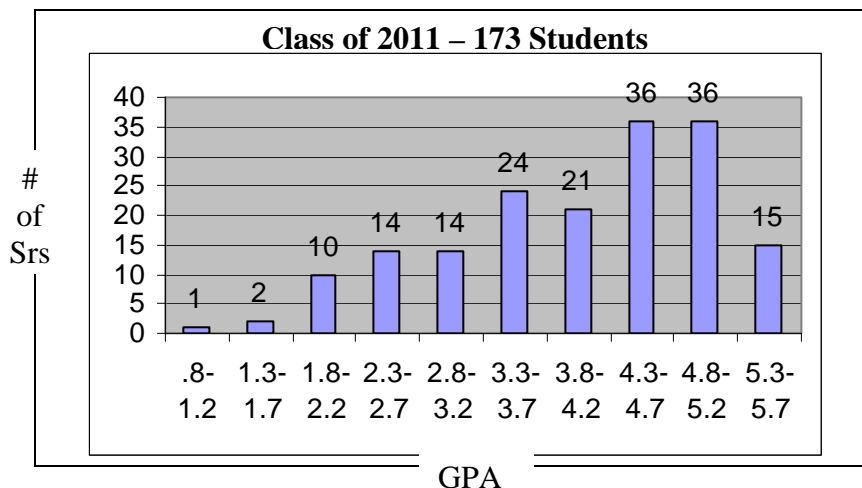
The unweighted grade point average is reported on a scale of .5 to 4.5. This is the traditional college 4.0 scale, with points added beyond for students with unusually high numerical averages. A .5 GPA = an average of 60, the minimal passing grade. A 4.0 GPA = an average of 95. A few students have unweighted averages higher than 95. Thus, to accommodate them, a 4.1 GPA = an average of 96, and so forth, up to a 4.5 GPA = an average of 100. **The highest unweighted grade point average in the Class of 2011 is 4.0.**

The weighted grade point average is reported on a scale of .5 to 6.9. Like the unweighted scale, it begins as a scale that goes from .5 to 4.5. Because a student in a level 5 course who receives a final grade of 100 would add 24 weighted points to his/her final grade, the weighted scale must extend to 4.5 + 24, or to 6.9. Thus, a theoretical student who took all level 5 courses and received all final grades of 100 would obtain a 6.9 weighted average. This is in fact not achievable, because not all courses are level 5. **The highest weighted grade point average in the Class of 2011 is 5.7.**

### Unweighted Grade Point Average

A+	97-100	4.2 - 4.5
A	93-96	3.8 - 4.1
A-	90-92	3.5 - 3.7
B+	87-89	3.2 - 3.4
B	83-86	2.8 - 3.1
B-	80-82	2.5 - 2.7
C+	77-79	2.2 - 2.4
C	73-76	1.8 - 2.1
C-	70-72	1.5 - 1.7
D+	67-69	1.2 - 1.4
D	63-66	.8 - 1.1
D-	60-62	.5 - .7

### Weighted Grade Point Average Distribution



### TESTING INFORMATION

#### SAT Scores, Class of 2010

CRITICAL READING		MATH			WRITING		Test	Mean Score	
Number	Percent	Score	Number	Percent	Score	Number	Percent		
14	10%	<b>700-800</b>	27	19%	<b>700-800</b>	18	13%	Spanish	637
40	29%	<b>600-699</b>	35	25%	<b>600-699</b>	35	25%	Literature	633
45	32%	<b>500-599</b>	45	32%	<b>500-599</b>	49	35%	Math I	628
36	27%	<b>400-499</b>	25	18%	<b>400-499</b>	30	21%	Chemistry	707
2	1%	<b>300-399</b>	6	5%	<b>300-399</b>	6	5%	Biology-M	635
2	1%	<b>200-299</b>	1	1%	<b>200-299</b>	1	1%	Biology-E	595
								Math II	666
563		Mean	584		Mean	564			
139		Number	139		Number	139			

#### Subject Test Scores, Class of 2010

#### ACT Average Scores for 49 students, Class of 2010

English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
25.8	25.7	25.8	25.0	25.7

#### ACT Average Scores for Massachusetts, 2010

English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
24.0	24.3	24.2	23.1	24.0

#### Advanced Placement Information

In May, 2010, 62 students took 93 AP exams in 13 subjects. The scores are as follows.

5	4	3	2	1
42%	31%	18%	8%	1%

**National Merit Scholarship Information** In the Class of 2011, there are 5 Semifinalists and 14 Commended Students.

### POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Year	2010	2009	2008	2007
Four year college	81%	78%	75%	80%
Two year college	13%	15%	16%	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>89%</b>