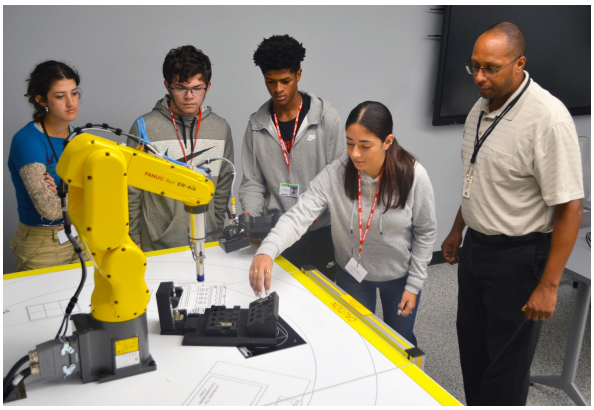
Discover New Bedford High School

A Family-Student Guide to
Academic Pathways & Specialized Programs

Updated March 11, 2023



230 Hathaway Boulevard
New Bedford, MA 02740
508-997-4511 ext. 20559
nbhs.newbedfordschools.org

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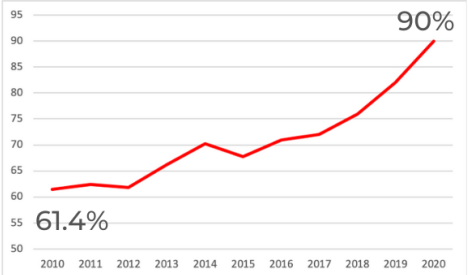
Academic Pathways & Specialized Programs

New Bedford High School (NBHS) is a comprehensive public high school, serving nearly 3,000 students in grades 9-12. With a deep commitment among students, families, staff, and the community, the school has launched a profound transformation focused on excellence.

NBHS points of pride include:

- Full accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
- Innovative academic pathways and Career Vocational Technical Education programs, offering students a wide range of experiences in challenging coursework, hands-on learning, internships, and community service
- More than 20 college-level Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- Early College partnerships with UMass Dartmouth and Bristol Community College
- State-of-the-art facility, including health sciences lab, finance lab, robotics lab, television studio, planetarium, makerspace, athletic fields, pool, weight room, and more
- Competitive Division 3 athletics teams in 15 sports
- Award-winning Performing Arts program
- Longest continuously operating JROTC program, established in 1881

Four-Year Graduation Rate



From 2010 to 2020, the school's four-year cohort graduation rate soared to 90%, a dramatic increase of nearly 30 percentage points.

New Bedford High School OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm

MEET THE STAFF | EXPLORE THE CAMPUS | LEARN ABOUT PROGRAMS

Something for Every Student

NBHS offers a broad array of courses, academic pathways, and specialized programs to engage all students in rigorous learning and prepare them for success after high school. Students work closely with highly qualified faculty and administrators to design a course of study that aligns with their interests, skills, and college and career goals.

This guide provides an overview of the pathways and programs to help students and families understand their options and navigate a successful path to graduation. For detailed descriptions of various academies and programs, and the courses offered in each, download the NBHS Program of Study (PDF).

Core Requirements for High School Graduation

In order to earn a diploma from New Bedford High School, every student must meet the district's graduation requirements.

New Bedford's requirements are based on MassCore, a state-recommended program of study intended to align high school coursework with college and workforce expectations. A student must earn 24 credits and comply with state accountability requirements, including earning a passing score on the Grade 10 MCAS exam in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and one of the high school Science and Technology/Engineering tests.

- ➔ Read more about course requirements at NBHS.

For more information about MassCore, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and other resources for families, visit the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website.

ACADEMIC PATHWAYS & SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

In addition to courses in the core subject areas, NBHS offers an extensive variety of academic pathways and specialized programs to enhance students' educational experience and prepare them for success after high school. Students are encouraged to pursue a course of study that aligns with their interests, skills, and college and career goals.

Click on any of the options below to jump to more information:

Academic Pathways

- Academy of Honors
- Advanced Placement (AP)
- Career Vocational Technical Education
- Early College
- International Baccalaureate – Pursuing Authorization for 2023*
- Magnet Academy of Civic Leadership and World Studies – NEW in 2023
- National Academy Foundation (NAF) Academies
- Visual and Performing Arts

** New Bedford High School is a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. The school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. IB World Schools share a common philosophy -- a commitment to high-quality, challenging, international education -- that we believe is important for our students. Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme (DP), or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For further information about the IB and its programmes visit http://www.ibo.org.*

Specialized Programs

- Army JROTC (Junior Reserves Officers' Training Corps)
- English Learner Education
- Internships
- Special Education
- Virtual High School

Academy of Honors

The Academy of Honors (AOH) provides qualifying scholars with the opportunity to participate in a sequence of advanced courses – including options in Advanced Placement and Early College – that will prepare them for application to the finest colleges, universities, and other post-secondary programs. AOH is a selective program, with an application process that includes a review of student grades, conduct, and attendance, as well as teacher recommendations and a student essay.

Grades	9 - 12
Application?	Yes. Application Deadline: December of 8th Grade year
Requirements	In addition to the Core Requirements for Graduation from NBHS, in order to graduate from the Academy of Honors with an AP Capstone Diploma, a student must: ● Take and pass the AP Seminar course, and earn a 3 or higher on the AP exam; ● Take and pass the AP Research course, and earn a 3 or higher on the AP exam; AND ● Take and pass four other AP courses of the student's choosing, and earn a 3 or higher on each of the AP exams in those courses. Visit the College Board website for more information about the AP Capstone Award.
To learn more	Academy of Honors
Contact	Joyce Cardoza Associate Principal 508-997-4511, ext. 20504 jcardoza@newbedfordschools.org

Advanced Placement (AP)

NBHS currently offers 20 college-level Advanced Placement (AP) courses developed by the College Board across a range of disciplines. At the end of each course, a student may take an AP exam in the subject. If the student earns a "qualifying score" on the exam, they may receive college credit, thus saving on the cost of college. Currently more than 90 percent of colleges and universities across the country offer college credit, advanced placement, or both, for qualifying AP exam scores. By taking certain AP courses and earning a score of 3 or higher on certain exams, students can also earn additional certificates and awards from the College Board (see below).

Grades	9 - 12
Application?	No. Some AP courses have prerequisites that students must take before enrolling in the course. If a student is interested in taking an AP course not offered at NBHS, the course may be available through our Virtual High School program.
Requirements	The AP Capstone Diploma is granted to students who earn a score of 3 or higher on both the AP Seminar and AP Research exams *and* on four additional AP exams of the student's choosing. The AP Seminar and Research Certificate is granted to students who earn a score of 3 or higher on both the AP Seminar and AP Research exams. Visit the College Board website for more information about these awards.
To learn more	Advanced Placement at NBHS
Contact	James Calnan Social Studies Content Instructional Leader 508-997-4511 ext. 20524 j1calnan@newbedfordschools.org

Career Vocational Technical Education (CVTE)

Please note that NAF Academies are part of the CVTE program at the high school.

Career Vocational Technical Education (CVTE) programs give students hands-on learning and experience in specific career and technical fields. In addition to NAF Academies, NBHS offers two Chapter 74 programs, which is the term used in Massachusetts for certain CVTE programs, in Business Technology and Radio and Television Broadcasting. Students who complete these programs can earn a Chapter 74 Certificate of Occupational Proficiency.

NBHS also offers an Early Childhood Education program. During their senior year, students who have successfully completed prior coursework participate in an internship in the program's Little Whalers Pre-K school. Students in this program can earn state certification from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Grades	9 - 12
Application?	Students complete a request form indicating interest in each program during course selection, beginning in March. When programs reach enrollment capacity, students are placed on a wait list.
Requirements	In addition to the Core Requirements for Graduation from NBHS: ● Students in Chapter 74 programs are required to complete 900 hours of coursework and meet all competency standards as identified in the state curriculum to successfully receive a Certificate of Occupational Proficiency. ● Students in the Early Childhood Education program participate in an internship in the program's Little Whalers Pre-K school during their senior year, upon successful completion of prior coursework.
To learn more	Business Technology CVTE program at New Bedford High School
Contact	Christopher Cummings Manager of Career Vocational Technical Education 508-997-4511 ext. 20799 ccummings@newbedfordschools.org

Early College

NBHS partners with UMass Dartmouth and Bristol Community College (BCC) to provide Early College opportunities for students in grades 10-12. Students can take college-level courses with college professors and earn at least 12 college credits at no cost, while still in high school. The colleges also provide some opportunities for NBHS students to enroll in classes on campus.

In addition, NBHS participates in the Massachusetts OneGoal initiative to provide personalized college and career planning support to students.

Note: The term "Dual Enrollment" often refers to programs in which high school students take courses at local colleges. In the New Bedford Public Schools, Dual Enrollment refers to opportunities for 8th grade students from our middle schools to take selected 9th grade classes at the high school.

Grades	11 - 12
Application?	Yes, for some programs. Students submit an Early College Interest Form.
Requirements	In addition to the core requirements for graduation from NBHS, students are required to: ● maintain a 2.0 GPA once enrolled in the course ● commit to earning 12 college credits in courses offered ● enroll in One Goal course ● complete a commitment form
To learn more	Massachusetts Early College Initiative OneGoal
Contact	Joyce Cardoza Associate Principal 508-997-4511 ext. 20504 jcardoza@newbedfordschools.org

International Baccalaureate (IB) - *PURSUING AUTHORIZATION*

NBHS is a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme. The school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School, in order to offer the Diploma Programme in grades 11 and 12.

IB World Schools share a common philosophy -- a commitment to high-quality, challenging, international education. Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme (DP), or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.

For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit www.ibo.org.

Grades	11 - 12 (proposed)
To learn more	International Baccalaureate
Contact	Donna Guay Manager of Educator Quality - IB DP Coordinator 508-997-4511 ext. 20544 dguay@newbedfordschools.org

Magnet Academy of Civic Leadership and World Studies (MACLWS)

In September 2023, NBHS will launch the Magnet Academy of Civic Leadership and World Studies (MACLWS), a new academic pathway designed to help students discover, understand, and occupy their place in today's interconnected world. The MACLWS will provide an educational experience focused on developing the next generation of leaders to confront the challenges facing communities at the local, national, and international levels.

Students in the MACLWS will enroll in specialized courses related to civics and global issues. They will gain valuable experience participating in community service, internships, and a virtual student exchange program. MACLWS students also will complete a senior Capstone Project, among other requirements, and will earn a Diploma of Distinction.

Grades	Grade 10 only in SY 2023-24 Grades 11-12 in SY 2024-25 Grades 10-12 in SY 2025-26 and beyond
Application?	Yes. Teachers will recommend students for application each winter for participation the following year. Application Deadlines: ● Teacher Recommendations due March 6, 2023 ● Student Applications due April 6, 2023
Requirements	In addition to the Core Requirements for Graduation from NBHS, students are required to: Meet the requirements for a Diploma of Distinction: ● Two accelerated learning courses (one International Baccalaureate course* or two Advanced Placement courses) in Grades 10-12 ● Four years of World Languages, or completion of the Seal of Biliteracy ● 120 community service hours ● Capstone Project ● Senior year presentation (can be in a team of up to 3 students) ● Internship (after-school or in the summer) located at an organization, business, industry and/or local government agency focusing on leadership, civics, or international issues ** New Bedford High School is a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. The school is pursuing authorization as an*

	IB World School. IB World Schools share a common philosophy -- a commitment to high-quality, challenging, international education -- that we believe is important for our students. Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme (DP), or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit http://www.ibo.org.
To learn more	Magnet Academy of Civic Leadership & World Studies
Contact	Bernadette Coelho Principal 508-997-4511, ext. 20500 bcoelho@newbedfordschools.org

National Academy Foundation (NAF) Academies

Please note that NAF Academies are part of the Career Vocational Technical Education program at the high school.

NBHS currently offers five career-themed academies using the National Academy Foundation (NAF) model:

- Academy of Engineering
- Academy of Finance
- Academy of Health Sciences
- Academy of Hospitality & Tourism
- Academy of Information Technology

NBHS is the only high school in Massachusetts that offers more than one NAF Academy. Two of the five have earned the distinction of Distinguished Academy, the highest honor awarded by the national organization.

Grades	9 - 12
Application?	Yes. Students indicate interest in a NAF pathway during course selection, beginning in March.
Requirements	In addition to the core requirements for graduation from NBHS, students must meet the following requirements in order to earn NAFTrack Certification: ● Complete at least four semesters of NAFTrack Certification approved courses with a designated NAF career pathway or other approved career cluster; AND ● Achieve a grade of C or better in each of these courses.
To learn more	National Academy Foundation (NAF)
Contact	Christopher Cummings Manager of Career Vocational Technical Education 508-997-4511 ext. 20799 ccummings@newbedfordschools.org

Visual & Performing Arts

The Visual and Performing Arts pathway immerses students in visual art, music, theatre, and dance. Courses in the Fine Arts Department offer progression through an arts discipline, culminating with study at high levels.

Student artists demonstrate their learning and skills through a variety of courses, clubs, and extracurricular activities, including concert and marching bands, choir, dance and theater productions, exhibits, and other venues to showcase their talents.

The school also partners with community organizations to provide students experiences in arts and music outside of school.

Grades	9 - 12
Application?	No.
To learn more	Fine Arts Department
Contact	Lynn Souza Director of Fine Arts 508-997-4511 ext. 14104 lsouza@newbedfordschools.org

Specialized Programs

In addition to these academic pathways, NBHS offers a broad array of programs and services to enhance students' educational experience and provide additional support as needed. These include:

- **Army JROTC (Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps)**

  The JROTC program at NBHS is the longest continuously running program in the country, established in 1881. Students in grades 9-12 can participate in the program, which emphasizes character, achievement, leadership, and diversity, as well as providing a constructive and disciplined learning environment for all cadets. *Read more about the JROTC program*.

- **English Learner Education**

  NBHS serves a diverse English Learner (EL) student population from a variety of linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Our school district serves EL students through English as a Second Language (ESL), Sheltered English Immersion (SEI), Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE), and Newcomer programs. *Read more about English Learner Education*.

- **Internships**

  NBHS students have numerous opportunities to participate in internships in the community. Internships provide a meaningful worksite experience that give students a broader understanding of a particular career or field. Students may take part in internships after school and/or during the summer. *Read more about Internships*.

- **Special Education**

  NBHS offers a full array of programs and services to students with disabilities. Students receive special education services in a variety of settings, including co-taught classes, substantially separate classrooms, transitional services programs, and more. All students are provided full access to the curriculum in every subject area. *Read more about Special Education*.

- **Virtual High School (VHS)**

  Virtual High School enables NBHS to supplement their in-person classes with a broad range of online courses. NBHS partners with the nonprofit organization VHS Learning to provide these teacher-led high school classes online. *Read more about Virtual High School*.

Additional Credentials / Distinctions

NBHS students have opportunities to receive additional credentials and distinctions at graduation, in addition to a diploma, including:

- AP Capstone Diploma (See Advanced Placement)
- Certificate of Occupational Proficiency (See CVTE)
- Certification in Early Childhood Education and Care (See CVTE)
- Diploma of Distinction (See Magnet Academy)
- IB Diploma (See International Baccalaureate)
- MACLWS Certificate (See Magnet Academy)
- NAF Certification (See NAF Academies)
- Seal of Biliteracy (See DESE website)

Academic Departments at NBHS

- English Language Arts
- English Learner Education
- Fine Arts
- Health Education
- History and Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Science
- World Languages

We are committed to developing a community of learners who are academically proficient, demonstrate strong character and exhibit self-confidence.