

Summit Middle School
Guidelines for High School Placement Recommendations

English Courses

English II

Course placement recommendations for students who complete English II in 8th grade will be made on a case by case basis.

English III

Students advancing from English III at Summit are typically thoroughly prepared to succeed in high school level Freshman Language Arts courses at any BVSD school. Qualified candidates will be recommended by English III teachers for Advanced Freshman Language Arts or Pre-IB Grade 9 Language Arts courses.

The two most important criteria for success in the advanced classes are the ability to express oneself clearly in writing and the discipline to complete all work on time. The descriptors below should be considered to be the requirements for placement in an advanced course:

1. The student has met the majority of the mid-year “critical benchmarks” for English III.
2. The student has scored above 80% on at least one unit test.
3. The student has turned in all assignments and has scored 80% or higher on all essays.
4. The student generally earns A’s and B’s on all types of assignments.
5. The student has demonstrated growth and improvement throughout the year.

English IV

Success in advanced high school coursework depends on many factors, including effort, persistence, inquisitiveness, and an insightful approach to literature, as well as the more quantifiable skills of reading, writing, speaking, and grammar. Nevertheless, it is possible to identify a *minimum* level of performance to serve as a cut-off point for recommendation to an advanced high school Language Arts course. The descriptors below should be considered the necessary but not sufficient requirements for success in an advanced placement. Therefore, students who are not performing at this level should not expect such a recommendation.

1. The student has met the majority of the mid-year “critical benchmarks” for English IV.
2. The student has scored above 80% on at least one unit test.
3. The student has turned in all formal writing assignments and has scored above 80% on at least one, with no rubric score below 3.5 out of 5.
4. The student generally earns A’s and B’s on all types of assignments.
5. The student has demonstrated effort and improvement throughout the year.

Mathematics Courses

Algebra A

Course placement recommendations for Algebra A students entering high school in the following year:

1. The majority of students should expect a recommendation for Algebra I in high school. Algebra A does not cover enough material to be considered a full Algebra I course.
2. Those students with high A's (96% and above) may be considered for Honors Algebra I.

Algebra B

Course placement recommendations for Algebra B students entering high school in the following year:

1. The majority of students should expect a recommendation for Geometry (regular) in high school.
2. Students who demonstrate both an aptitude for and a good attitude toward proofs in geometry, and who also have earned A's all year and mastered almost all benchmarks, may be recommended for Honors Geometry.
3. Students with low grades (low C's, D's and F's) and low benchmark mastery will be recommended to take Algebra I in high school.

Accelerated Algebra

A majority of students should expect to be recommended to take Honors Geometry, pending B or higher results on the Algebra Exit Exam.

Students with an average below B should be recommended to take Algebra I.

Proof Geometry

Students who did not obtain a grade of an A or B on the Algebra Exit Examination will be recommended to take Algebra I in high school, as this course is the cornerstone for all future math classes.

Students who have successfully passed the Algebra Exit Examination but who score below a B in Proof Geometry will be recommended to take Geometry in high school.

All other students (the vast majority at Summit) should take Algebra II in high school, at the level that suits their learning style best (regular, advanced or pre-IB honors)

Introduction to Higher Mathematics

Students who passed the Algebra Exit Examination with a B or better, or who currently have A's or B's in Introduction to Higher Mathematics, will be recommended for Algebra II in high school at the level that suits their learning style best (regular, advanced, or pre-IB honors).

Students who do not meet the above criteria will be recommended for Algebra I in high school, as this course is the cornerstone for all higher math classes.

World Language Courses

Spanish

Students who will be completing Level 2 Spanish and want to enter an IB3 or AP3 Spanish class must have a semester average of 88% or higher or be individually recommended by the Summit teacher.

Students who want to enter a regular Spanish 3 class in high school must have passed Summit Level 2 Spanish with an average of 80% or higher or be individually recommended by the Summit teacher.

Students who will be completing Level 1 Spanish at Summit and wish to enter a Spanish 3, IB3 or AP3 course must have a Summit teacher recommendation and agree to complete a summer work packet independently prior to high school. Student and parent signatures are required.

Students who will be completing Beginning Spanish at Summit and wish to enter a Level 2 Spanish class in high school must have a Summit teacher recommendation and agree to complete a summer work packet independently prior to entering high school. Student and parent signatures are required.

German

Students who will be completing Level 2 German at Summit and want to enter a Level 3 German class in high school should consult the list of prerequisites for German Level 3 and PIB German Level 3 (at Fairview) in their high school course registration packets.

Students who will be completing Level 1 German at Summit and want to enter a Level 2 German class in high school should consult the list of prerequisites for German Level 2 and PIB German Level 2 (Fairview) in their high school course registration packets.

Copies of these prerequisites for high school German classes may also be obtained from the Summit German teacher, who will be glad to discuss any questions you may have about high school placement.

Students who will be completing Beginning German at Summit and want to enter a German 2 class must have a Summit teacher recommendation and agree to purchase a textbook used in the high school and obtain private instruction during the summer. They will need to master the vocabulary and grammar structures not covered in the Summit Beginning German class, but which are pre-requisites for German 2 in high school. Student and parent signatures are required.

French

Students who will be completing Level 2 French at Summit and want to enter an IB3 class must have a semester average of 88% or higher or be individually recommended by the Summit teacher.

Students who will be completing Level 2 French at Summit and want to enter a regular French 3 class must have passed Summit Level 2 French with an average of 80% or higher or be individually recommended by the Summit teacher.

Students who will be completing Level 1 French at Summit and want to enter a French 2 class must have a semester average of 70% or higher or be individually recommended by the Summit teacher.

Students who will be completing Beginning French at Summit and want to enter a French II class, or who will be completing French I and want to enter a regular French 3 class, must have a Summit teacher recommendation and agree to purchase the textbook used in the high school and obtain private instruction during the summer. They will need to master the vocabulary and grammar structures not covered in the Summit Beginning French class, but which are prerequisites for the French class in high school. Student and parent signatures are required.

World Geography and International Relations Course

Students who earn an A or B+ in World Geography at Summit should be well prepared to take IB and AP Geography or US Government courses in high school. Students who meet this criterion and have an interest in the subject are strongly encouraged to take this more challenging route.

Students who earn an A or B but who do not have a strong interest in the subject need to be aware of the dramatic increase in workload at the high school level. While these students are likely to perform well, they may be advised to pursue honors courses in other subject areas. Students may seek the individual counsel of Summit's World Geography teacher.

As a general rule, students with a C or below in World Geography are advised to sign up for the standard Geography and US Government course sequence. Exceptions are made for a student with a high C and a strong interest in the subject area. Students may seek the individual counsel of Summit's World Geography teacher.

Science Courses

Advanced Topics

Students who have completed Advanced Topics in Science with a grade of "C" or better during 8th grade at Summit will be recommended to take Advanced Physical Science at Boulder High School or Pre- IB Chemistry/Physics at Fairview High School.

Chemistry/Physics

Students who have completed Chemistry/Physics with a grade of A or A+ and who have a grade of B+ or better in Proof Geometry or Intro to Algebra 2/Trig at Summit will be recommended to take Advanced Biology at Boulder High School or PIB Biology at Fairview. Students with the grade of A- or lower will be recommended to take Advanced Physical Science at Boulder High School or Pre-IB Chemistry/Physics at Fairview High.

Note: Course placement recommendations are provided by Summit as a courtesy to help guide course selection. It is up to individual high schools to determine if they wish to follow Summit's recommendations for specific courses. For further information, please see your high school counselor.