

# Beaufort County School District School Choice Program Options

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All Beaufort County School District families have the opportunity to indicate their preference for school assignments.

## **School Choice Program Options**

**All Schools** will maintain and increase a STEM focus. In addition, all schools will offer a core program including fine/performing arts, world language, and technology. **All Middle Schools** will offer advanced courses in all four core content areas.

In **Acceleration Academy (AA)**, students engage in authentic problem-based approaches in multiple pathways designed to accelerate students for success in our ever-changing global society and career marketplace. Acceleration opportunities include college credit as well as programs with national career-related certification. All programs will accelerate through partnerships within the local community (college, industry, business and military). A climate of acceleration will be fostered through co-curricular and content-related clubs as well as student access to cutting edge technology and highly trained staff. Acceleration Academy creates opportunities for all students to springboard to the next phase of life with confidence that comes from preparation.

Schools Offering Acceleration Academy and Content Area Choices (*to select AA, students must enroll in a specific Content Area Choice*):

Battery Creek High School: (AA-BC) Advanced Placement (AP); Aviation/Aerospace Engineering; Culinary Arts; Environmental and Natural Resources Management; Welding Technologies; Chinese Language; Biomedical Sciences (PLTW). For more information, refer to the high school course catalogue. Please contact the school for specific AA offerings at Battery Creek High School.

Beaufort High School: (AA-BH) Advanced Placement Capstone (AP); Biomedical Sciences (PLTW); Family & Consumer Sciences; Information Support & Services/Computer Repair; Networking Systems. For more information, refer to the high school course catalogue. Please contact the school for specific AA offerings at Beaufort High School.

Bluffton High School: (AA-BL) Advanced Placement Capstone (AP); Emergency and Fire Management; Family & Consumer Sciences; Media Technology; Visual & Performing Arts); Biomedical Sciences (PLTW). For more information, refer to the high school course catalogue. Please contact the school for specific AA offerings at Bluffton High School.

May River High School: (AA-MR) Advanced Placement Capstone (AP); Automotive Technology; Health Science/Nursing; Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security; Welding Technologies. For more information, refer to the high school course catalogue. Please contact the school for specific AA offerings at May River High School.

**Advanced Math, Engineering and Science Academy (AMES)** is a program for gifted and high achieving students. The program is based on rigorous math and science foundational skills taught through the use of science and engineering projects. The AMES learning environment is

designed to actively engage students in exploration, discovery, experimentation and mastery of standards. Students take responsibility for their own learning and are engaged in higher levels of thought through application of knowledge to real world problems, class discussion and the use of exciting resources.

Schools Offering AMES: Beaufort Elementary School, Pritchardville Elementary School, St. Helena Elementary School

**Animation, Creation and Design** places an emphasis on curriculum that encourages hands-on engagement, problem solving and the use of technology for research, collaboration and project presentation. Students will learn coding through WeDO robotics, LEGO robotics, app creation and web page design. The program includes a gaming component, which will allow students to create, design and utilize games to explore content. The Animation Arts component will include 2D, 3D and stop motion animation and continue to teach curriculum through the use of animation. Examples of student work creation will include the use of mobile computing devices to create an onsite studio for movies and other media creations.

Schools Offering Animation Creation and Design: Bluffton Elementary School

**Arts Infused** or arts integration programs focus on providing extensive opportunities for all students to learn through creative instructional approaches and to express themselves creatively in the arts. The arts curriculum provides students with a creative learning environment that includes performances, exhibitions of artwork and special performing groups. Students will have many opportunities to build community relationships and to participate in a quality, comprehensive arts education that includes dance, music, theatre, visual arts and creative writing.

Schools Offering Arts Infused: Beaufort Middle School, HE McCracken Middle School, Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts, Lady's Island Elementary School, Lady's Island Middle School, Mossy Oaks Elementary School, Whale Branch Elementary School, Whale Branch Middle School

**Classical Studies Programs** are offered at the middle or high school levels and offer a college preparatory course of study with mandatory courses in English, world language, math, science, social studies and a school wide participation in world culture studies.

There is an emphasis on academics with a focus on critical thinking, participation in Socratic seminars and web-based learning. A strong focus will be on the arts as well as the development of character, school pride, student leadership, personal accountability, structured discipline, along with civic responsibilities and community service.

Schools Offering Classical Studies: Beaufort Middle School

**Dual - Language** is a form of education in which students are taught literacy and content in two different languages during the school day. The day is usually split in half providing content learning in the English language and then switching to the second language and content for the other half of the day. Students have the advantage of learning not only required subject area content but also to become fluent in a second language at the same time. Chinese and Spanish

dual language programs are currently offered and designed to develop and implement a sustainable, sequential, standards-based continuum of second language instruction.

Schools Offering Dual Language: Broad River Elementary School, Hilton Head Island Elementary School (International Baccalaureate)

**Early College** high schools are schools where students can earn both a high school diploma and up to two years of college credit at the same time. Early College high schools increase exposure and access to post-secondary study while reducing or eliminating college costs as students prepare for the job market or further study. A strong component of the Early College model is partnerships with local colleges.

Schools Offering Early College: Whale Branch Early College High School

**International Baccalaureate Program (IB)** is a recognized leader in the field of international education, encouraging students to be active learners, well-rounded individuals, and engaged citizens of the world. The three IB programs for students aged 3 to 19 help develop the intellectual, personal, emotional, and social skills to live, learn, and work in a rapidly globalizing world. The three programs span the years from kindergarten through high school and may be offered individually or as a continuum. Each program includes a curriculum and pedagogy, student assessment appropriate to the age range, professional development for teachers, and a process of school authorization and evaluation.

Schools Offering IB: Hilton Head Island Elementary School (International Baccalaureate), Hilton Head Island Middle School, Hilton Head Island High School

**Learning Through Leadership** schools provide a comprehensive learning model through student leadership development based on the Leader in Me, or similar approach. The Leader in Me program is a whole-school transformation model. Based on *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*®, The Leader in Me produces transformational results such as higher academic achievement, fewer discipline problems, and increased engagement among teachers and parents. The Leader in Me equips students with the self-confidence and skills they need to thrive in the 21st century economy. Learning Through Leadership program goals include: fostering a student's self-esteem, discipline, responsibility, confidence, and creativity. Students will learn to set and meet goals, effectively cooperate with people of various backgrounds and cultures, and resolve conflicts and solve problems.

Schools Offering Learning Through Leadership: Battery Creek High School, Bluffton Middle, Coosa Elementary School, Joseph Shanklin Elementary School, MC Riley Elementary School, Okatie Elementary School, Robert Smalls International Academy, St. Helena Elementary School

**Montessori** program philosophy has been linked to the teaching of critical thinking skills, developmentally appropriate instruction, multicultural curriculum, multi-sensory curriculum, integrated curriculum and cooperative learning. The Montessori method is based on a child's natural desire to learn. Students actively learn within a prepared environment of attractive, carefully sequenced materials and engage in many independent tasks that they complete at their own pace. The Montessori program is organized into multi-aged classrooms that include the

lower elementary for 1st through 3rd graders, the upper elementary that include 4th through 5th and/or 6th grade and middle school 7th and 8th grades.

Schools Offering Montessori: Beaufort Elementary School, River Ridge Academy

**Project Based** schools provide an experimentally focused education using real-world problems to capture student interest and provoke serious thinking as the students acquire and apply new knowledge in a problem-solving context. The teacher plays the role of facilitator, working with students to frame worthwhile questions, structuring meaningful tasks, coaching knowledge development, as well as thinking and social skills, and carefully assessing what students have learned from the experience. Typical projects present a problem to solve (What is the best way to reduce the pollution in the schoolyard pond?) or a phenomenon to investigate (What causes rain?). In Project Based Education, the project is the source of the learning, not the culmination of it. Comprehensive Project-based Education:

- is organized around an open-ended driving question or challenge.
- creates a need to know essential content and skills.
- requires inquiry to learn and/or create something new.
- requires critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and various forms of communication, often known as "21st Century Skills".
- allows some degree of student voice and choice.
- incorporates feedback and revision.
- results in a publicly presented product or performance.

Schools Offering Project Based: Hilton Head Early Childhood Center, Port Royal Elementary School, Pritchardville Elementary School, Red Cedar Elementary School

**Project Lead the Way (PLTW) (including Gateway and Launch)** places an emphasis on curriculum that encourages hands-on engagement, problem solving and the use of technology for research, collaboration and project presentation. The high school courses (PLTW) are designed to prepare students to pursue a post-secondary education and careers in math, science, engineering, and technology. The middle school engineering program (Gateway) features a project-based curriculum and program so that students may design and test their ideas with advanced modeling software. Students study mechanical and computer control systems, robotics and animation and explore the importance and how to reduce, conserve and produce energy. The elementary program (Launch) places an emphasis on curriculum that encourages hands-on engagement, problem solving and the use of design processes as well as technology for research, collaboration and project presentation. Students apply STEM knowledge and employ critical thinking skills as they learn and discover alongside classmates.

Schools Offering PLTW: Bluffton High School, Bluffton Middle School, HE McCracken Middle School, Lady's Island Middle School, May River High School, River Ridge Academy, Whale Branch Middle School.

\*JROTC is a choice at Bluffton High School for students zoned for May River High School.

**For more information, see the "Frequently Asked Questions about School Choice" document.**