



BAYONNE HIGH SCHOOL

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*Selected by the New Jersey Department of Education
Best Practices Recipient
Blue Ribbon State Finalist
Star School*

Richard J. Baccarella,
Principal

February 1, 2022

Dear Students and Families of the Class of 2022:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many events including co-curricular and athletic programs have changed or been canceled altogether. However, the NJDOE is providing members of the Class of 2022 with an opportunity to offset disruptions to learning opportunities and participation in extracurricular activities, including Spring Sports, that might have resulted from the closure of schools to in-person instruction in Spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This opportunity is known as the Bridge Year Pilot Program.

To be eligible to participate in the Bridge Year Pilot Program, a student must:

- Be in the graduating class of 2022;
- Meet all applicable high school graduation requirements by the end of their senior year of high school;
- Be 19 years old or younger during the entirety of the bridge year; a student that would turn 20 years old before the end of their Bridge Year is not eligible to participate. Exception: A student with disabilities is eligible to participate if the student will turn 20 years old during the Bridge Year due to services provided under the student's IEP.
- Maintain a grade point average of 2.0 during the bridge year.

There are specific guidelines that the school and district must follow for the additional year of schooling that can be found within the documents posted on the [NJ Bridge Year Website](#). Some key takeaways:

- Students may participate in graduation ceremonies with the graduating class of 2022, as applicable, but diplomas will not be issued until the conclusion of the Bridge Year.
- During the Bridge Year, students will be required to take between 9 and 12 credits at BHS, Hudson County Community College, or a combination thereof. (HCCC tuition is to be paid for by the family.)
- In order to be eligible to participate in a BHS spring sport (fall and winter sports are not eligible as per the NJSIAA), a Bridge Year student is required to enroll in at least nine but less than 12 credits during the semester of participation in the sport. Additionally, the student must turn 19 years of age after September 1st to be eligible.
- If a student enrolls full-time at Hudson County Community College, it will count towards a year of eligibility for collegiate athletics.
- Students must have acceptable attendance and maintain academic eligibility at both institutions, even when not in season, or they will be dropped from rolls.
- Individualized Learning Plans will be created for any student who participates in the Bridge Year Program to ensure that educational/extracurricular goals are established and met.
- Eligible students must notify their high school's Bridge Year Liaison of their intent to participate by February 15 of their senior year.

Students who would like to enroll, discuss the possibility of enrolling, and/or have questions about the Bridge Year Pilot Program should complete the [Bridge Year Intent Google Form](#) no later than no later than **Tuesday, February 15, 2022**. Mrs. Renae Bush, Director of Student Personnel Services and Bridge Year Program Liaison, will contact families who have expressed interest in the program.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Baccarella
Principal