



A Guide to Brookline Tutorial

What is BHS Tutorial?

Brookline Tutorial is a one-credit course offering content area academic support for 9th through 12th grade students with the overarching goal of maximizing student achievement. Each class section (comprised of ten students and two content area teachers) meets four times a week in a supportive learning community.

How is the course structured?

In collaboration with their Tutorial teachers, students identify specific focus areas for improving academic performance and receive individual guidance in developing effective study strategies. Class time is divided between personalized consultation (in which a Tutorial teacher assists the student in identifying more effective and efficient study habits) and independent practice (where the student implements recommended strategies).

Although homework is often the vehicle for strengthening underdeveloped academic skills, completing homework is not the *only* objective of this class. Test preparation, reading comprehension, composition development, and organization skills are often identified topics for the teacher/student collaboration time.

Tutorial teachers communicate regularly with the student's teachers, parent/guardian, and guidance counselor to monitor student progress.

Who is an appropriate candidate for Tutorial class?

Brookline Tutorial is designed to provide support for students with the following academic profiles:

- Students with a mild learning disability who do not meet the criteria for special education services
- Students needing assistance to meet the course expectations in an Honors or Advanced Placement class
- Students with organizational difficulties inhibiting them from achieving their academic potential
- Students needing additional review of course content to gain mastery of the material
- Students operating "under the radar" who would benefit from the support of a strong adult relationship
- Successful tutorial students are those willing to be engaged in the process of becoming a more successful learner.

Which fundamental characteristics do not constitute an appropriate reason for a Tutorial referral?

- Behavior or discipline problems
- Attendance issues
- Remedial instructional needs
- Resistance to adult assistance
- A need for specialized instruction e.g. specific reading techniques
- Cognitive impairment

What is the process for admission to a Tutorial class?

Students may be recommended for the Tutorial classes through one of the following routes:

- As part of an IEP initial assessment, re-evaluation, or other student centered interdisciplinary meeting - a student may be recommended for Brookline Tutorial as one of several possible options for academic support. The student's guidance counselor or Learning Center teacher fills out a referral form including teacher assessments of academic needs, current performance, and a history of academic support.
- Individual teachers are also encouraged to recommend Tutorial support for a student they feel could benefit from the additional support. The guidance counselor will follow up by compiling reports from all the student's teachers to ascertain the pervasiveness and severity of academic difficulties.

Referrals will be prioritized at the Dean's team meetings and placement will be initiated as openings occur.

Whom do I contact with further questions about Brookline Tutorial?

For general questions about the program:

Sally Noteware, Program Leader

617-713-5178

sally_noteware@brookline.k12.ma.us

For specific questions about a student's acceptance into the program,

please contact his/her guidance counselor