



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Quick Overview:

The Bergen County Institutes for Science and Technology at Northern Valley RHS are free public high school programs of choice for Bergen County residents. Students are considered Bergen Tech students and graduate with a diploma from Bergen Tech, but they attend all academic classes and take part in athletics and extracurricular activities with Northern Valley teachers, staff, and students. Courses specific to the Institute for Interactive Design Technology and the Institute for Sports Medicine and Exercise Science are taught by Bergen Tech instructors.

BCIST students are required to adhere to all policies set forth by the Northern Valley school district administration.

As with all Bergen County Technical School programs, students applying for admission must reside in Bergen County at the time of their application submission and must continue to reside in Bergen County during their four years of high school. It is important to notify both BCTS and Northern Valley of any address changes that occur once a student is accepted to the program in order to ensure that transportation services are in place and that communications from school to home are uninterrupted.

The Admission Process:

The online application for the BCIST programs is accessible from the Bergen Tech website: <http://bcts.bergen.org>. The application site opens in September. **Be sure to carefully read the User Manual available on the site before beginning the application to ensure you understand the steps involved, are prepared to upload the required documentation, and are aware of the application deadline.**

No applications will be accepted after the deadline.

Admission to the BCIST program is only offered to students entering 9th grade; students may not transfer into the program.

To learn about the BCIST programs, visit <http://bcts.bergen.org>. Select Admissions from the menu bar at the top of the page, and then select Bergen County Institutes for Science and Technology from the list of Bergen Tech campuses.

Interviews are a required component of a student's application to BCIST. It is essential that students provide an email address in their application that they will check on a regular basis; all communication during the application process is done through email. Students **must not** use their current school email address. Many, if not most, schools have security measures in place that block outside non-school communications.

Transportation:

Transportation to the Old Tappan and Demarest campuses of Northern Valley RHS is provided by your town of residence. BCTS will send your local district a list of students attending the BCIST programs. **If your child did not attend school in your local district, it is imperative that you register with your local Board of Education so that your child will be included in the busing roster. Likewise, if you move, you must register with your new district BOE so that busing can be arranged.**

Please be aware that busing **is not** arranged or provided by BCTS. Northern Valley RHS provides busing only for students residing in towns within their district – Demarest, Haworth, Closter, Old Tappan, Norwood, Northvale, Harrington Park – and only if students reside beyond a certain distance from the campus they attend. There is no busing provided for afterhours sports or activities. We encourage parents to reach out to one another for carpooling.

On days with delayed openings, many bus companies cannot adjust their pick-up schedules to accommodate the schedule change. Please note that both Northern Valley campuses are open for students who arrive early.

Placement Testing:

Placement tests for academic classes are administered by Northern Valley RHS, and placement is determined by Northern Valley based upon test results and the school district's academic standards. BCTS does not determine student placement in academic classes. **Placement decisions are not subject to appeal.**

All students are required to take Algebra I, unless they test into Geometry as a result of the placement test process.

Athletics, Extracurriculars:

All students attending BCIST programs on the Northern Valley RHS campuses participate in Northern Valley clubs and sports. Athletic forms should be downloaded from the Northern Valley website at <https://nvd.nvnet.org/o/nvd/documents/athletics/athletic-forms/468802>.

NV's extensive listing of clubs is available in the Student Handbook.

<https://sites.google.com/nvnet.org/nvrhs-studenthandbook/home>

School Policies:

All students attending BCIST programs must adhere to the policies established by Northern Valley RHS, including attendance policies. The student handbook is available for download on the NV website:

<https://sites.google.com/nvnet.org/nvrhs-studenthandbook/home>

Laptops:

BCIST students receive their laptops from Bergen Tech. Families are not required to pay a technology fee for the laptops, and students are not required to return their laptops until graduation or upon leaving the program. Laptops are distributed prior to the Orientation session held in August at Northern Valley RHS. For those students who are unable to attend the session, laptops can be picked up from the Technology department at NV at students' respective campuses. Students/families will receive notification directly from Northern Valley regarding laptop distribution dates.

Please note that Northern Valley sends notification out in the summer regarding the technology fee for laptops. **This does not pertain to BCTS students.**

Orientation:

BCIST students are invited to attend an Orientation session at Bergen Tech in addition to the Northern Valley Orientation session. The BCTS Orientation is an opportunity for students to meet their peers in the program and to interact with upperclassmen and staff members. This Orientation is not mandatory, but students are encouraged to attend if their schedule permits.

At the Orientation session offered at Northern Valley students will receive their locker numbers and combinations, homeroom assignments, schedules, and information to access the online handbook and tour the facilities. They will also have an opportunity to hear from the district's wellness team.

Senior Experience:

BCIST students are required to participate in work-based learning experiences during May and June of their senior year. Placement in an internship is arranged by Bergen Tech. The Senior Experience internship is an interactive learning partnership through which students increase their knowledge and skills in a particular area of study while under the guidance of a mentor(s). It provides an opportunity for students to utilize the skills and knowledge gained in the classroom in real-world, hands-on environments while teaming up with a variety of people within the community, and it allows businesses and corporations to invest in the future of their industry. Students will spend a minimum of 15-20 hours a week in areas related to their career goals.