

Each year at graduation the Briarcliff HS Diploma with Distinction is awarded to students who have demonstrated excellence in a particular discipline. This was designed as an incentive for students to develop an area of educational interest and maximize their desire to learn and self-motivate.

In order to earn this recognition, students must have achieved several benchmarks above and beyond the typical diploma requirements as follows:

Students must have completed five credits, including college level work, in English, mathematics, science, social studies, technology, world languages or the performing arts.

**OR**

Four credits in visual arts, including college level work.

**OR**

Three credits in health and fitness, including college level work.

Students must also describe a related senior internship and/or community service activity within the student's indicated area of concentration.

**AND**

Site any co-curricular clubs or athletic team memberships which support the indicated area of concentration. Leadership role(s) are encouraged.

To establish eligibility, students must complete an application and return to the HS counseling office.

**The application will be available to download in early spring.**

Below are sample profiles of previous student applications that you may find helpful.

PLEASE NOTE THE CRITERIA LISTED BELOW REPRESENT POSSIBLE OPTIONS  
NOT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS



**Briarcliff High School Diploma with Distinction in English  
(EXAMPLE)**

- Courses (5 Credits)
  - 2 credits – English 9 and 10
  - 2 credits – Advanced Placement English 11 and 12
  - 1 credit – Multicultural Literature and Creative Writing
- Co-Curricular Activities (School Related)
  - Poetry Club – Treasurer
  - Science Fiction Fantasy Club
  - Published in Teen Ink Magazine
    - *Ode to Mr. Kaishian*
  - Editor of the Briarcliff Bulletin - Editorials
- Project/Internship
  - The New York Times Digital
    - Reaching a difficult demographic – 18 to 24 year-olds



**Briarcliff High School Diploma with Distinction in Mathematics  
(EXAMPLE)**

- Courses (5 Credits)
  - 3 credits – Math A, Math B
  - 2 credits – Pre-Calculus and AP Statistics
- Co-Curricular Activities (School Related)
  - Mathletes
  - The Seimen's Competition in Math, Science, and Technology
  - The Math League
    - Semi-Finalist in the High School Competition #3
- Project/Internship
  - Ossining Public Schools After-School Tutoring



**Briarcliff High School Diploma with Distinction in Social Studies  
(EXAMPLE)**

- Courses (5 Credits)
  - 3 credits – Global I, Global II, and US History
  - 2 credits – AP European, AP Macroeconomics
- Co-Curricular Activities (School Related)
  - Amnesty International – Vice President
  - Model Congress
  - Debate Team
- Project/Internship
  - Internship in local government office



### **Briarcliff High School Diploma with Distinction in Science (EXAMPLE)**

- **Courses (5 Credits)**
  - 4 credits – Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Advanced Placement Environmental Science
  - 1 credit – Visual Basic, Java
- **Co-Curricular Activities (School Related)**
  - Chemistry Club – Vice President
  - Ecology Club
  - RiverWatch
  - Westchester Science Fair
- **Project/Internship**
  - Fordham University Calder Center
  - Research Presentation on the implications of rainwater run-off on the Hudson River



### **Briarcliff High School Diploma with Distinction in World Languages (EXAMPLE)**

- **Courses (5 Credits)**
  - 4 credits – Spanish I, II, III, IV Honors
  - 1 credits – AP Spanish, Spanish VH
- **Co-Curricular Activities (School Related)**
  - Spanish Club – President
  - Participation in National Language Exam
  - Tutor students in Spanish at the Middle School Help Desk
- **Project/Internship**
  - Mount Kisco Center for English Language Learners
  - Developed and taught a program for Hispanic preschool students to acquire English Language Skills
- **Study of a Second World Language recommended**



### **Briarcliff High School Diploma with Distinction in Health and Fitness (EXAMPLE)**

- **Courses (3 Credits)**
  - 2 credits – Physical Education
  - ½ credit – Health
  - ½ credit – Cardio Fitness
- **Co-Curricular Activities (School Related)**
  - 3 yr member of Varsity Sport – Soccer, Field Hockey, Basketball, Football, etc
- **Out of School Activities**
  - 1 Year Physical Fitness regiment
    - Club Fit in Briarcliff
  - AAU Basketball, Club Soccer, USS Swimming
- **Project/Internship**
  - Briarcliff Manor Park and Recreation Department



### Briarcliff High School Diploma with Distinction in the Performing Arts (EXAMPLE)

- **Courses (5 Credits)**
  - 4 credits – Chorus, Band, Orchestra, Dance
  - 1 credit – Music Theory, Music in our Lives, Music Theory AP
- **Co-Curricular Activities (School Related)**
  - NYSSMA solo participation achieving minimum score of "93" at Level V or Level IV
  - Tri-M Music Honor Society Membership
  - Performing a major leading role, as determined by the department in the:
    - Fall Drama
    - Spring Musical
  - Selection and participation in any or all of the following state and national organizations, or similar ensembles of state or national distinction as determined by the department, including:
    - All-Eastern Honors Ensemble sponsored by New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA)
    - All-State Ensemble sponsored by New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA)
    - Area All-State Ensemble sponsored by Westchester County School Music Association (WCSMA & NYSSMA)
    - Honors Band sponsored by New York State Band Directors Association (NYSBDA & NYSSMA)
    - Honors Orchestra sponsored by the American String Teachers Association (ASTA)
    - Honors Choir sponsored by the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)
- **Project/Internship**
  - Distinguished music mentoring via one-on-one or large group instruction for an extended period of time as determined by the department.



### Briarcliff High School Diploma with Distinction in Visual Arts (EXAMPLE)

- **Courses (4 Credits)**
  - 3 credits – Drawing and Painting I, Beginning Painting, AP Studio Art Portfolio
  - 1 credit – Photo I, Photo II, Ceramics, Sculpture
- **Co-Curricular Activities (School Related)**
  - NAHS – 3 years; officer
  - Art & Music Festival assistant
  - Mural/Project Leader
- **Out-Of-School**
  - Garrison Art Center Mentor Program
  - Katonah Museum Senior Exhibition
  - Outside Exhibitions
  - Figure drawing class
- **Project/Internship**
  - Katonah Museum
  - NYC – costume design (film) internship