

Class of 2025



Freshman Registration Handbook

The content of this handbook applies specifically to 9th graders.

The complete handbook for all grades is available online.

Waconia High School at a Glance

School Year

- 3 trimesters

School Day

- 5 periods each day.
- Regular Daily Time Schedule
 - ❖ Period 1 - 8:00 to 9:14
 - ❖ Period 2 - 9:20 to 10:34
 - ❖ Period 3 - 10:40 to 11:53
 - ❖ Period 4 - 11:59 to 1:35 (Lunch is served during this period)
 - ❖ Period 5 - 1:41 - 2:55
- Tuesday and Thursday (Wild Time) Time Schedule
 - ❖ Period 1 - 8:00 to 9:03
 - ❖ Period 2 - 9:09 to 10:11
 - ❖ Wild Time/Advisory - 10:17 to 10:57
 - ❖ Period 3 - 11:03 to 12:05
 - ❖ Period 4 - 12:11 to 1:47 (Lunch is served during this period)
 - ❖ Period 5 - 1:53 - 2:55

CREDITS

- Each class is worth 1 credit.
- 55 credits are required for graduation
- Required credits: 37
 - ❖ English: 8 credits (4 years)
 - ❖ Social Studies: 8 credits (4 years)
 - ❖ Math: 7 credits (3.5 years)
 - ❖ Science: 7 credits (3.5 years)
 - ❖ PE: 2 credits (1 year)
 - ❖ Health: 1 credit (.5 years)
 - ❖ Fine Arts: 2 credits (1 year)
 - ❖ Speech: 1 credit (.5 years)
 - ❖ Senior Seminar: 1 credit (.5 years)
- Elective credits: 18
 - ❖ Student choice

Course and Credit Requirement Breakdown - Class of 2025

Each class is counted as 1 credit. 55 credits are required for graduation - 37 required credits, 18 elective credits

Grade 9 Core Requirements:

English (2)	English 9A and English 9B; or Pre-AP English 9A and 9B
Social Studies (1)	American Citizenship
Science (3)	Prin. of Chemistry, Prin. of Engineering, and Prin. of Physics
Mathematics (2)	2 Math Courses (see Mathematics section)

Grade 10 Core Requirements:

English (2)	English 10A and English 10B; or Pre-AP English 10A and 10B
Social Studies (2)	US History A and US History B; or Advanced Placement US History
Science (2)	Cellular Biology and Biological Systems
Mathematics (2)	2 Math Courses (see Mathematics section)

Grade 11 Core Requirements:

English (2)	Comp. 11; and Themes in Literature 11 or American Literature 11 (choose one); or Advanced Placement Language and Composition
Social Studies (2)	World History A and B; or Advanced Placement World History
Mathematics (2)	2 Math Courses (see Mathematics section)

Grade 12 Core Requirements:

English (2)	Composition 12 or College Freshman Comp (choose one); and Themes in Literature 12 or College Literature (choose one); or Advanced Placement Literature and Composition
Social Studies (2)	Economics and Government 12; or Advanced Placement US Government
Senior Seminar (1)	Intended to better prepare students for their postsecondary experiences

General Core Requirements:

Physical Ed (2)	Foundations of Fitness (suggested in grade 9 or 10); and One additional Physical Education class of choice
Health (1)	Health (suggested in grade 9 or 10)
Speech (1)	Speech (suggested in grade 10, 11, or 12)
Mathematics (1)	See Mathematics section for required sequence
Science (2)	Chemistry A and B or Physics A and B
Social Studies (1)	Human Geography (open to grades 10-12)
Fine Arts (2)	Choose 2 classes in the area of art or music (or, see below)

These classes may also be used to meet the fine arts requirement: Drama, Creative Writing, Video Production, Interior Design, Metals Technology (2 credits), Cabinetry and Furniture Making (2 credits)

Activities Offered At Waconia High School

WHS is a member of the Minnesota State High School League

Fall Activities

Boys Cross Country	Boys Soccer	Fall Musical	Football
Girls Cross Country	Girls Soccer	Volleyball	Girls Swimming & Diving
Girls Tennis			

Winter Activities

Boys Basketball	Boys Hockey	Girls Hockey	Girls Basketball	Wrestling
Dance Team	Gymnastics	Show Choir		
Boys Swimming	Alpine Skiing (w/Mound)			

Spring Activities

Baseball	Boys Golf	Girls Golf	Softball	Boys Track & Field
Girls Track & Field	Marching Band	Girls Lacrosse	Boys Lacrosse	Boys Tennis

Other School Sponsored Clubs & Activities

Knowledge Bowl, Breakfast Book Club, Conservation Club, International Club, Instrumental Ensemble, Art Club, Yearbook, Jazz Band, National Honor Society, Pep Band, Prom Committee, Waconia Strength and Conditioning, Robotics Club, Science Club, Student Council, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), Vocal Ensemble, Unified Sports, Future Farmers of America FFA (w/Chaska,) Family-Career-Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Accepting, Belonging and Community Group

Graduation – Honor Students

Graduates from Waconia High School can achieve honor status, and be recognized at the commencement ceremony, by maintaining high grades and taking our most challenging courses. Three levels of Honor status will be recognized:

Cum Laude	3.75 - 4.0 GPA and 6 honor credits
Magna Cum Laude	3.85 - 4.0 GPA and 9 honor credits
Summa Cum Laude	3.95 - 4.0 GPA and 12 honor credits

Honor Credit Courses:

Advanced Placement	AP Art (2)	AP Biology (2)	AP Calculus A/B (2)
AP Calculus B/C (3)	AP Chemistry (3)	AP Lang. & Composition (2)	AP Lit. & Composition (2)
AP Lit: Criticism & Analysis (1)	AP Statistics (2)	AP US Gov. & Politics (2)	AP US History (2)
AP World History (2)	Pre-AP English 9 (2)	Pre-AP English 10 (2)	

Concurrent Enrollment	CIS French (2)	CIS Physics (3)	CIS Spanish (3)
SMSU College Algebra (1)	SMSU College Composition (1)	SMSU College Literature (1)	

Project Lead the Way	Civil Engineering & Arch. (2)	Computer Integrated Mfg (2)	Engineering Design & Dev. (3)
Environmental Engineering (2)	Intro to Engineering Des. (2)		

Articulated Courses	Accounting 1 (1)	Accounting 2 (1)
Business Mgmt (1)	Cab. & Furniture Making (2)	Computers for Future (1)
Emergency Medical Responder (1)	Emergency Medical Technician (2)	Electricity (1)
Entertainment Marketing (1)	Introduction to Construction (1)	Introduction to Corrections (1)
Introduction to Education (2)	Juvenile Justice & Delinquency (1)	Medical Terminology (1)
Metals Technology (2)	Microsoft Office (1)	Nursing Assistant (2)
(SWMETRO) Animal Science (2)	Technology in Education (1)	Web Design & Development (1)

PSEO

- Accept credit for courses in English, science, social studies, and math
- 3 semester credits = 2 WHS credits
- No credit for non-credit bearing or elective courses

There are many opportunities to earn college credit while in high school. We encourage you to view our Post-Secondary College Credit Opportunities document to see what is all available.

Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)

Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is a program that allows public and nonpublic students in 10th, 11th and 12th grades to earn college credit while still in high school, through enrollment in and successful completion of college nonsectarian courses at eligible postsecondary institutions. Students generate both college credit and high school credit by successful completion of the course. Most PSEO courses are offered on the campus of the postsecondary institution; some courses are offered online. Each participating college or university sets its own admissions requirements for enrollment into the PSEO courses. Eleventh and 12th-grade students may take PSEO courses on a full- or part-time basis; 10th-graders are eligible to enroll in PSEO on a more limited basis (see note below). Students must meet the PSEO residency and eligibility requirements and abide by participation limits specified in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.09. If a school district determines that a pupil is not on track to graduate, she/he may continue to participate in PSEO on a term by term basis.

Legislation allows public and nonpublic 10th-grade students to enroll initially in one Career and Technical Education (CTE) course through PSEO. If the student earns a "C" or higher grade in this first course, she/he is eligible to take additional CTE courses while in 10th grade. In order to be eligible, a 10th-grade student must have met the proficiency level of "meets or exceeds" on the 8th-grade MCA reading test. If the student did not take the MCA, another reading assessment accepted by the enrolling postsecondary institution can be substituted. For students with disabilities, there are alternative options to demonstrate reading proficiency.

By March 1 of each year, or three weeks prior to the date a student registers for courses for the following school year, schools must provide PSEO information to all students in grades 8-11 and their families. To assist the district in planning, a student must inform the district by May 30 of each year of their intent to enroll in postsecondary courses during the following school year.

There is no charge to PSEO students for tuition, books or fees for items that are required to participate in a course; however, students may incur fees for equipment that becomes their property when the course or program is completed, textbooks that are not returned to the postsecondary institution according to their policies, or for tuition costs if they do not notify the district by May 30 and the district does not waive this date requirement.

Funds are available to help pay transportation expenses for qualifying students to participate in PSEO courses on college campuses. For more information on these funds, access the PSEO Mileage Reimbursement Program Instructions.

Enrolling in a PSEO course does not prohibit a student from participating in activities sponsored by the high school.

School districts must allow a PSEO student reasonable access to the high school building, computers and/or other technology resources during regular school hours to participate in PSEO courses, whether on-line or on campus.

Each year, districts must publish their grade-weighting policy on their website, including a list of courses for which students can earn weighted grades. Waconia High School does not weight grades.

All courses taken through the PSEO program must meet graduation requirements. Districts must transcript credits earned in PSEO by a ratio prescribed in statute. Districts have the authority to decide which subject area and standards the PSEO course meets. If there is a dispute between the district and the student regarding the number of credits granted for a particular course, the student may appeal the board's decision to the commissioner. The commissioner's decision regarding the number of credits will be final.

Postsecondary institutions are required to allow PSEO students to enroll in online courses consistent with the institution's policy regarding postsecondary student enrollment in online courses.

ART

INTRODUCTION TO ART

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: Yes	Prerequisite: None
--------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------	---------------------------

Students will learn about art and themselves from a broad perspective, exploring the ideas of art appreciation, art history, the basic elements of art and design as well as production of artwork using a wide range of art mediums. Students will be taught basic art skills and will use a sketchbook daily. Grades are based on tests, quizzes, sketches and projects. Emphasis on the idea that art is all around us everyday and art as a means of communication.

APPLIED ART

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: Yes	Prerequisite: Introduction to Art
--------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------	--

Applied Art explores many traditional crafts including paper making, wood cut printmaking, batik, marbled paper, tile mosaic and more. A fun and practical application of art skills. Minimal drawing skills required. Grade based on projects, tests and knowledge of techniques and history of each individual craft.

CERAMICS 1

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: Yes	Prerequisite: Introduction to Art
--------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------	--

Ceramics students will learn the history and characteristics of clay and ceramics from prehistoric to present day. Projects are based on the basic hand building techniques and potter's wheel. Students will also learn a variety of glazing techniques and the firing process.

DRAWING AND PAINTING

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: Yes	Prerequisite: Introduction to Art
--------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------	--

Drawing and Painting takes the interested student farther into the idea of 2-D design. Drawing skills will be explored more, emphasis on dramatic improvement of observational (real life) drawing. Artwork will be completed in many drawing and painting mediums. Projects will also be based on styles throughout the history of art. Artists and timelines will be introduced. Sketchbook work will continue. Grades are based on tests, quizzes, sketches, projects and an artist research paper. Emphasis on students exploring and developing their own style and art analysis based on the elements of art and principles of design.

BUSINESS AND COMPUTER

ACCOUNTING 1

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: Yes	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Intro to Business
--------------------------	-------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	--

Accounting is the language of business. It is an essential part of every business institution and organization. This class is your chance to take away more knowledge about finance that is applicable to the real world. It can take you to the next level in business. This class is a structured class and many students love it's connection to math, finance, and entrepreneurship. Any student interested in any aspect of business and/or planning to study business in college (such as accounting, business administration, marketing, economics, finance, management, and business administration) will need a strong background in accounting. Also, it is an honor credit. Students should follow up this class with Accounting 2 for an even broader look at business activities and prepare for owning their own business or taking college business courses. Also, we have a fun workplace atmosphere! Join us. This is an Honors Course.

ACCOUNTING 2

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: Yes	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Accounting 1
--------------------------	-------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------------

This class is a continuation of Accounting 1 and expands accounting concepts to include the accounting for larger corporations and covers paying employees and payroll taxes. This class is highly recommended for all accounting students, but especially for those interested in college business, finance, and marketing classes and those who are interested in owning their own business! If you want a well-rounded introduction to accounting for a business, we recommend you take both trimesters of accounting. Hope to see you there! This is an Honors Course.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (Wildcat Warehouse School Store!)

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: Yes	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Intro to Business
--------------------------	-------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	--

Business management covers many of the general topics important to any business or management position. We cover the functions of management, strategic planning, business analysis, operations, communication and decision-making, business ethics, human resources, and more! We do a lot of projects, occasionally get to work with businesses, and help to manage the school store as well! Bring your management and product ideas and learn to work with vendors to create the best school store for our community!

COMPUTERS FOR YOUR FUTURE

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: Yes	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
--------------------------	-------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------

Want to be the student that WOWS your teacher and friends with your work? This class is here to prepare you for your high school academic career, college courses, and also your professional career choice with the computer skills that will set you apart from your peers. Did you know that 80% of today's businesses use Microsoft Office for their work? Also, over 60% of colleges use Microsoft as well. For this reason, this course will cover Microsoft Word and Excel as well as tools to more efficiently use the computer and find resources that you need to complete tasks. Computer skills are used in almost 100% of careers. (You also have the chance to raise your typing game.) Join us and expand your skills while you have fun creating documents on the computer!

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

This course teaches students the essentials of computer programming. How do things show up on a screen? How does information get from here to Germany and back? Lessons in this class use both an online coding platform as well as an introductory software program to learn coding basics. This class is for ALL students! Join us and learn how all of the technology in your life works. You will be amazed. Programming languages we focus on are JavaScript and Introductory C++ with some Python and HTML thrown in as well.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: Intro to Business

This course will teach you how to handle your month-to-month finances. Become a better manager of your money by learning more about banking services, maintaining a realistic budget, completing your income taxes, purchasing a vehicle, investing your money to make it grow and how to use credit wisely.

ENTERTAINMENT MARKETING

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: Yes

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: Intro to Business

If you're looking for an exciting introduction to the world of marketing, check us out! We have a lot of conversation and a positive atmosphere when discussing lessons. We also get to participate in a social media marketing simulation that looks at social media statistics in order to create and post social media ads. Some of our projects revolve around No prior business knowledge is needed. Our field trip to the Mall of America puts our new marketing knowledge to use too! We'd love to have you join us!

GAME DESIGN I

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

It's finally here - a course to guide students to make their own video games! Students will use the Unity game engine to create digital sprites, sounds, and backgrounds to build games for multiple platforms, including Android, iOS, Nintendo, Playstation, and many more! Students will learn C# computer programming through the creation of four distinct pre-designed games in Unity, as well as a capstone group game creation project.

GAME DESIGN II

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: Game Design I

A continuation of Game Design I. Game Design II dives deeper into the design and animation aspects of game creation. Adobe Photoshop will be used to create various terrain and asset textures from scratch. Students will use Adobe Fuse and Mixamo for character design workflow, designing a character, and creating new custom characters. Students will also learn how to control game characters, create game flow, and introduce rules into the game. Finally, students will understand how the challenge and reward cycle works in gaming and explore the systems for creating a graphical user interface using Unity.

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

Take a tour through the world of business! Discover what you're most interested in while you uncover talents you can apply in the business world. Touch base with general business topics such as careers, management, communication, marketing, law, human resources, personal finance, banking, accounting, entrepreneurship, and more. Join us and find your place in business!

MICROSOFT OFFICE

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: Yes

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

In this course, we take a dive into the computer skills needed at 80% of American companies...Microsoft Office. We go through extended skills in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access databases. These skills are extremely valued in the workplace! Being an expert in Microsoft, especially skills in Excel, can give you a major head start when applying for jobs and becoming the best in your future job. Be a guru! And, if you choose, you can even continue on to become certified as a Microsoft Specialist!

BUSINESS LAW

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: Intro to Business

Law for Business and Personal Use is a brief introduction to Minnesota's legal system. Personal points of emphasis are criminal law, civil law, constitutional rights, juvenile/parent/child, marriage and divorce; while business law looks at consumer law, landlord/tenant law, and small business legalities, etc. This is a great class for all wanting to know more about how our laws affect them daily and how the legal system is set up for those starting their own small businesses.

STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: Intro to Business

Students in this class are matched up (in groups) with local Waconia small businesses and will learn the ins and outs of small business ownership. The greater part of this class will be spent in groups working on a project for your selected business. This project will serve as a potential solution to a current "problem" the company is facing. This class will be a great introduction into what it takes to be an entrepreneur in a real world setting!

VIDEO PRODUCTION

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Have you ever watched a cool or inspiring video and wondered how it was made? Video I will give you the tools and skills to shoot videos that are heads and shoulders above the majority of videos posted on YouTube! With a heavy emphasis placed on the Adobe Premiere Pro editing software, Video I will teach you the basics of video production: framing, lighting, sound (use an external mic), editing, special effects (turn them off!), and gives advice on shooting a variety of specific situations: sporting/music events, parties and family gatherings, graduations and performances. Plus, how to make instructional and promotional videos, how to make a music video, how to capture stunts, and much more.

WEB DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: Yes	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
--------------------------	-------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------

Interested in a growing field? Do you like project-based classes? You can combine interests in technology and design when you learn to design for the web. You will use Adobe programs, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to design a site of your own and then make it a reality! This class is really fun and class time is often spent working on our projects. Create something real with us!

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 9 (A & B)

Grade Level: 9	Credits: 2	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
-----------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------

We will survey genres of literature including novels, short stories, and a play, as well as non-fiction pieces. We will also study vocabulary, grammar, and writing structure/organization in order to convey ideas clearly in written assessments, presentations, and other more informal projects.

PRE-ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH 9 (A & B)

Grade Level: 9	Credits: 2	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Should be in the top 25% of class
-----------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------	--

This course is considered "honors" and is strongly recommended, but not required, as a prerequisite to Pre-AP English 10A and 10B, AP Language, and AP Literature. To prepare for these upper-level classes, we will practice close reading and critical analysis of both literature and non-fiction to understand the way writers use language to make and convey meaning. We will also study vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and style as a means of refining our writing. Emphasis will be placed on the writing process, which will include both in-class essays and essays involving a revision process with multiple drafts, as well as creative writing.

IMPORTANT NOTE: There is REQUIRED summer work associated with this course! This work will be evaluated as part of students' first-trimester grades and will serve to complement the work done during the school year by helping students in understanding, comparing, and analyzing literature at a more rigorous and complete academic level. The summer work (books and packet) will be available in the front office of WHS beginning the first week of summer. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the front office or the instructor, Katie Niemczyk, at kniemczyk@isd110.org. However, as it is summer, please be patient if it takes a few days to receive a response.

CREATIVE WRITING

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: Yes	Prerequisite: None
--------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------	---------------------------

This course is designed for students who are interested in gaining experience in creative writing. Students will explore different writing formats, and then practice writing in and melding personal styles with these existing formats/structures.

DRAMA

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Students in this course will study and produce drama and theatrical works. The class will be held in the WHS auditorium when available, and emphasis will be placed on acting short plays and scenes. All students will demonstrate dramatic analysis, performance techniques, and technical production skills.

SPEECH

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

Students prepare and deliver speeches to inform, entertain or persuade. Instruction is given in controlling nervousness, speaking from notes, organizing information, and using library resources.

TEEN LITERATURE

Grade Level: 9- 12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

I love to read, but I don't have time. If this sounds familiar, this is the class for you. Teen Lit carves out time for you to simply read what you want to read. You'll find ways to access the most current lit and be a part of a community that loves reading as much as you do. Worried about your reading speed or the workload of taking another English class? Don't be. Reading speed doesn't matter, and the majority of class time is spent reading. Homework is practically non-existent. See Mrs. Peoples with any questions.

INTRODUCTION TO YEARBOOK

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

In this class, students help to complete the WHS yearbook. Students help finish the book's layouts, learn how to write photo captions, practice elements of graphic design, and learn basic photojournalism skills. All class members will contribute to the production of the yearbook, and on-time completion of assignments is a minimum expectation.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

CULINARY FOODS 1: BASICS OF FOOD PREPARATION

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: Yes

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

Culinary Foods 1 is an elective course. This course will introduce students to a variety of skills and basic foods used in the culinary world. Students will develop a clearer understanding of food and nutrition while participating in hands-on lab activities and research projects.

CULINARY FOODS 2: BAKING AND PASTRIES

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: Yes

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: Culinary Foods 1

Culinary Foods 2 is an extension of skills learned in Culinary Foods 1. The course focuses on the science of baking and pastry arts. Students will learn about ingredients and equipment used in a bake shop, how recipes can be modified to benefit special diets, and menu planning. Units covered: Flours and Sugars, Quick Breads, Yeast Breads, Cakes, Cookies, and Specialty Desserts.

INTERIOR DESIGN

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Interior Design focuses on the *History of Design* and the *Elements of Design: Line, Shape, Form, Space, Color, and Texture*. Students will develop their unique design styles and study historical time periods in architecture and design. At the end of the course, students will work in small groups to cohesively combine all elements into a final project: building a model house to scale. Other topics covered: rendering, floor plans, professional lettering techniques, housing concerns and styles, and field trip opportunities. .

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

Students will learn the challenges of starting and running a business as they set up their own company for production of a product(s) for sale to earn money as they learn. Students will have experience with company structure, finances, marketing, and personnel management.

INTRODUCTION TO CONSTRUCTION

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: Yes

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

Students will be introduced to the construction field with the main emphasis on residential construction. The focus will be to provide students with basic information and skills in the construction field. Learning will include class work, visual demonstrations and project experience. The class is designed to help students become more employable in the construction field.

INTRODUCTION TO METALS

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to develop introductory skills in arc and gas welding, lathe operations, CNC and sheet metal fabrication as related to metal production. Each student will construct a variety of projects in each area.

INTRODUCTION TO WOODS

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

This course gives an introduction to woodworking machine skill and safety. Wood materials and processes in construction will be studied while students build a simple wood project using basic construction methods.

SMALL ENGINES

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

Small engines theories of operation, tools and repair procedures will be covered giving students basic knowledge of 2 and 4 stroke cycle engines. Approximately 60%-70% of the class is hands-on repairing and working in the lab. The study of power includes the study of simple machines, hydraulics, and transmissions.

WOODWORKING TECHNOLOGY

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

This class gives students an opportunity to construct a medium size wood project. Students will develop skills in operating woodworking machines, use materials, and techniques in the construction of a quality wood cabinet.

7 Required Math Classes

Here is the order of math classes at WHS:

- 2 credits of **Intermediate Algebra (A&B)** [high school level]
(followed by)
 - 2 credits of **Geometry (A&B)**
(followed by)
 - 2 credits of **Algebra 2 (A&B)**
(and)
 - **Statistics** taken anytime after Intermediate Algebra (A&B)
note: AP Statistics may substitute for Statistics

7 credits of math must be taken at the high school.

Where a student begins math at the high school depends on which math classes were taken in middle school. For example: some students will complete Intermediate Algebra (A&B) [high school level] while in 8th grade. These students will not repeat Intermediate Algebra in 9th grade. Rather, they will begin with Geometry and will take 7 total credits at the high school.

Here is the order of math classes for these students:

- 2 credits of **Geometry (A&B)**
(followed by)
 - 2 credits of **Algebra 2 (A&B)**
(followed by)
 - 1 credit **Trigonometry** and 1 credit **Precalculus**
(and)
 - **Statistics** taken anytime after Intermediate Algebra (A&B)
note: AP Statistics may substitute for Statistics

MATHEMATICS

ALGEBRA CONCEPTS

Grade Level: 9-10	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Teacher Permission
--------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------	---

This course is intended for students who need to improve their proficiency in the areas of: equation and inequality solving, and linear functions. Teacher recommendation is based on, but not limited to, student performance in Algebra 8. This course does not count towards the 7 math credits required for graduation.

INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA (A & B)

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 2	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
--------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------

This course is a study beyond linear topics in Algebra. Topics in this course will include systems of inequalities, linear programming, exponent laws, polynomial arithmetic and factoring. Quadratic, exponential, radical and rational functions will also be studied.

GEOMETRY (A & B)

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 2	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Intermediate Algebra
--------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------	---

This course includes the study of parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, right triangle trigonometry, and transformations.

ALGEBRA 2 (A & B)

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 2	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Geometry
--------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------	-------------------------------

This course includes the study of linear functions and systems, absolute value functions, quadratic functions, polynomial functions, exponential functions, logarithmic functions, radical and rational functions, trigonometric functions, and transformations of functions.

STATISTICS

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Intermediate Algebra
--------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------	---

This course includes the study of data classification, experimental design, descriptive statistics, basic probability rules and probability distributions.

PRECALCULUS

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Algebra 2
--------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------

This course is designed to provide the mathematical background that high school students need for calculus. Topics include polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions and their graphs. Matrices and conic sections will also be studied. This is a high level, elective course and will be run as such. It is expected that students have mastered the concepts from all prerequisite courses, and it is recommended that students have earned at least a "C" average in those courses.

TRIGONOMETRY

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Algebra 2
--------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------

This course reviews right triangle trigonometry and studies sine, cosine, and tangent functions, as well as their reciprocal and inverse functions. Students will analyze periodic graphs, solve trigonometric equations, and prove and apply trigonometric identities. This is a high level, elective course and will be run as such. It is expected that students have mastered the concepts from all prerequisite courses, and it is recommended that students have earned at least a "C" average in those courses.

CALCULUS (A & B)

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 2	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Precalculus and Trigonometry
--------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------	---

Relationships of limits, rates, areas and volumes will be explored in Calculus. Derivatives and integrals will be the main tools used to explore these topics.

MUSIC

VARSITY BAND

Grade Level: 9	Credits: 1.5	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: Yes	Prerequisite: None
-----------------------	---------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------	---------------------------

This band will meet every other day all year long during the same period as Varsity Choir. Varsity Band will place emphasis on basic scales, rhythms, and tone quality. Tone quality and good rehearsal techniques will be stressed. Music in a variety of styles will be taught and performed. Grading is based on play tests, written tests, and rehearsal technique. Expectations include a desire to learn and improve on an instrument, a positive attitude, self-discipline, and cooperation. Lessons and attendance at all public performances are required.

VARSITY CHOIR

Grade Level: 9	Credits: 1.5	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: Yes	Prerequisite: None
-----------------------	---------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------	---------------------------

This choir will meet every other day all year long during the same period as Varsity Band. Varsity Choir is our entry-level choir at Waconia High School. Membership consists primarily of 9th graders but all singers are welcome. Students in Varsity Choir are required to attend one vocal lesson with Mr. Olson per trimester. Attendance at all concerts and performances is mandatory. In the Varsity choir we will primarily focus on:

1. Vocal Technique including: breath support, vowel formation, diction, phrasing and vocal freedom
2. Music Literacy including: basic music theory and sight-reading
3. Concert Preparation

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

FOUNDATIONS OF FITNESS (This course is recommended for students in grade 9 or 10.)

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
-------------------	------------	--------------------	----------------------	--------------------

Students will participate in activities that address their fitness needs and increase competencies for lifelong participation. Students will construct, evaluate, and modify as needed a personal fitness plan aimed at minimizing preventable health risks. Major class emphasis is on a personal commitment to wellness, fitness for enjoyment, and fitness as a lifetime activity.

HEALTH

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
-------------------	------------	--------------------	----------------------	--------------------

This required course includes discussion of physical, emotional, social and personal health. This class takes a more comprehensive look at the following units:

- Mental and Emotional Health
- Family and Social Issues
 - Violence Prevention
 - Relationships
 - Human Development
 - Reproductive System
 - Endocrine System
- STI's
- Nutrition
- Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drugs

This course is recommended for students in grade 9 or 10.

SAFETY EDUCATION

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
-------------------	------------	--------------------	----------------------	--------------------

Students will receive classroom driver education necessary to complete the Minnesota driver's test and obtain a driver's permit. This course exceeds the state requirements for Classroom Driver's Education and is intended to help the student become a more capable driver by understanding those factors which influence decision making. Safety Education also includes updated information on recreational safety, weather safety, personal safety, power tool and equipment safety, alcohol education and traffic safety. First aid topics will also be covered. The student is responsible for arranging the behind-the-wheel education either after school, on weekends or during the summer. **This course does not meet the PE requirements for graduation.**

TOTAL FITNESS

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Foundations of Fitness
-------------------	------------	--------------------	----------------------	--------------------------------------

For those students who want to tone-up not bulk-up. This class develops cardiovascular training through a variety of aerobic activities such as: step aerobics and box/kick aerobics. Other methods of non-traditional body toning exercises may include: Pilates, yoga, fitness balls, and resistance tubing.

WEIGHT TRAINING 1

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: Foundations of Fitness

Students will be guided through the latest and safest techniques available in lifting. Each student will gather information through lectures, demonstrations, and computer programs so that he/she is capable of designing a safe and sound, functional and time efficient personalized fitness program with an emphasis on weight training. Grades will be based on a written proficiency test, written fitness plan, design of an individualized weight training program, record keeping and participation, and attendance.

SCIENCE

PRINCIPLES OF CHEMISTRY

Grade Level: 9

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

Principles of Chemistry consists of one trimester of introductory chemistry. Students will learn about matter by studying its properties, structure, and change. One very important aspect is the atom and how it combines with other atoms to form the wide variety of materials in our world.

PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING

Grade Level: 9

Credits: 1

College Credit: Yes

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: Principles of Physics

Principles of Engineering is a project-based course that introduces students to the profession of engineering and engineering technology, by exploring various technologies related to manufacturing processes, and engineering systems. Students will use critical thinking skills to analyze, synthesize, and design engineering systems. Students will apply skills and knowledge of math, science, communication, and technology in complex problem solving activities. Students also learn how to document their work and communicate their solutions to peers and members of the professional community. Principles of Engineering is a portion of a course in the Project Lead the Way sequence (PLTW).

PRINCIPLES OF PHYSICS

Grade Level: 9

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

Principles of Physics is a project-based course that introduces students to the major concepts they'll encounter in engineering and physics based courses of study. Topics of study include pressure, forces, energy, and heat. Students will use critical thinking skills to analyze, synthesize, and design solutions to various challenges. Students will apply skills and knowledge of math, science, communication, and technology in complex problem solving activities.

SOCIAL STUDIES

AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP

Grade Level: 9

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

This class will examine the following topics concerning our state and country: U.S. Constitution, citizenship, and civic responsibilities.

WORLD LANGUAGE

FRENCH 1 (A & B)

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 2

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

Bienvenue! Welcome! This course invites you to expand your worldview by exploring a different culture and learning a new language. Our primary focus will be on comprehending spoken French. Language skills will be acquired mainly through storytelling and the development of reading strategies. Through active listening, students will begin to express their ideas and opinions through basic writing and speaking. Culture topics are ever changing and designed to introduce students to music, traditions and lifestyle of the francophone world.

FRENCH 2 (A & B)

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 2

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: French 1

Continuons! Let's keep going! This course continues building on the skills acquired in French 1. Our main focus continues to be on comprehending spoken French. Storytelling, class conversations and continued development of reading strategies will expand students' vocabulary and increase language acquisition. Students will make continued progress in expressing themselves through writing and speaking, with an emphasis on academic writing. Culture topics are ever changing and designed to introduce students to music, traditions and lifestyle of the francophone world.

SPANISH 1 (A & B)

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 2

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: None

In Spanish 1, students will explore the cultures of Mexico and Cuba. The primary focus will be on the comprehension of the spoken language. Language skills will be acquired by means of storytelling and development of reading strategies. Students will read a level-appropriate novel that centers on the culture of study. Students will have the chance to listen and read in Spanish, as well as to express their ideas and opinions through basic writing and speaking. This class incorporates a variety of Latin music styles, history and traditions, opening the door to the language acquisition adventure.

SPANISH 2 (A & B)

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 2

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: Spanish 1

In Spanish 2, students will explore the cultures of Costa Rica and Guatemala. This course will build on the skills acquired in Spanish 1 while being exposed to high frequency language through storytelling and discussion that will enable natural language acquisition. Students will read a level-appropriate novel that centers on the culture of study, and other supporting readings to provide language input. Students will have plenty of opportunities to listen and read Spanish. In addition, they will be able to express their ideas and opinions through basic writing and speaking. Building on level 1, this course incorporates a variety of Latin music styles, history, and traditions, while maintaining a focus on natural language acquisition.

SPANISH CONVERSATION & CULTURE

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: Spanish 1 and enrolled in 2 or 3

In this course, students will explore cultural topics with a focus on developing their conversation and communication skills. This course will be a multi-level course with different levels of expectations, depending on each student's previous experience. This course is meant to be a third trimester of language for students who want to keep improving their Spanish skills throughout all three trimesters of the school year. It's also a great opportunity for students who are interested in learning more about the many cultures of the world that speak Spanish.

SPANISH FOR HERITAGE SPEAKERS (A & B)

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 2

College Credit: No

Fine Arts Credit: No

Prerequisite: Hearing/Speaking Spanish at home, and/or near-native language proficiency

This course is for students who hear and speak Spanish at home, and/or who have a near-native proficiency level. In this course, Spanish for heritage speakers, students will develop proficiency in reading, listening, writing, and speaking skills. Students will study Hispanic history, language, and culture. Students will be expected to participate orally on a daily basis. Students will learn the differences between formal and informal language, both oral and written. This course is an opportunity for students to celebrate Hispanic cultures, and to connect with other students who have significant language proficiency in Spanish.