

WEST WINDSOR - PLAINSBORO
HIGH SCHOOLS NORTH & SOUTH

Scheduling Booklet for Class of 2019



2015-2016

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction | 2 |
| Graduation Requirement Checklist | 3 |
| Standard 9 th Grade Program | 4 |
| 9 th Grade Electives | 5 |
| Mathematics | 8 |
| Science | 9 |
| World Languages | 10 |
| Social Studies, Language Arts and English as a Second Language | 11 |

Dear Eighth Grade Parent/Guardian,

Your child is about to begin an exciting and demanding new stage in his/her education. This booklet is intended as a quick reference guide for navigating the course selection process for freshman year. Please take the time to discuss the contents with your child while noting the following:

- When discussing your child's program, it is important to note that the ninth grade year is one of critical transition. Therefore, consider the balance of coursework demands (for example, honors vs. college prep) in relation to interest, ability, and extra-curricular activities. A student who is eligible for an honors level course is not required to take the course. Serious thought should be given as to what your child can handle without creating undue stress.
- Please note that honors level courses differ from regular college preparatory courses in terms of the level of expectations placed on the students, the amount of independent work expected, the pace of coverage of content, the expected skill level and the breadth and depth of the content covered.
- Students taking college prep ninth grade science, social studies and language arts courses are still eligible to take honor level courses in these areas in later high school years. Math courses follow in sequential order; therefore, ninth grade math placement is determined by the eighth grade math course as well as the student's performance in that course.
- Parents and students can submit course requests via Infinite Campus starting the second week of February. Students will then meet with their high school guidance counselors in late February and March to finalize course eligibility and verify electives. In the case of students who are classified under the IDEA, course placement shall rest with the IEP team. Your child's final course selections will appear in Infinite Campus at the completion of the scheduling process.
- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to review courses and make requests through the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus. Initial course level eligibility is based on 1st semester average and successful completion of prerequisite courses. Students and parents/guardians who would like a reevaluation of course eligibility must request a course entrance criteria review by April 1st. Details on the review process can be found on the district web site under Guidance / High School Services / High School Scheduling. Should you have any questions about the course eligibility process, please feel free to contact the appropriate content area supervisor:

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Business/Computers/Engineering: Mr. Russ Wray | 716-5000 – ext. 7329 |
| Fine & Performing Arts: Mr. Jeff Santoro | 716-5000 – ext. 5262 |
| Language Arts: Ms. Cathy Reilly | 716-5000 – ext. 7307 |
| Math: Ms. Andrea Bean | 716-5000 – ext. 5264 |
| Science: Mr. Richard Stec | 716-5000 – ext. 5268 |
| Social Studies: Mr. Carl Cooper | 716-5000 – ext. 5155 |
| World Languages: Ms. Sherry Sizemore | 716-5000 – ext. 5120 |

The complete *2015-2016 Program of Studies* can be found on our district website under Guidance / Program of Studies. In addition to full course descriptions and course criteria, valuable information about high school procedures is contained in the document. We hope you will find this information helpful as your child transitions to high school.

Sincerely,
Lee McDonald
K-12 Director of Guidance

STANDARD 9th GRADE PROGRAM

Students enroll in eight courses/subjects per year (35 credits), one of which is a mandatory study hall. However, Financial Literacy may be taken out of study hall for an additional 2.5 credits once during a four year sequence.

| | |
|----------|---|
| Course 1 | Science (Conceptual Physics, Environmental, Biology or Biology Honors) |
| Course 2 | Study Hall (Required for all students) |
| Course 3 | Language Arts (LA I, LA I Hns) |
| Course 4 | Elective (Select primary & alternate.) |

LUNCH

| | |
|----------|---|
| Course 5 | Math (Alg. 1 Part 2, Alg. 1, Geo, Geo Hns, Geometry Hns & Acc <i>if eligible</i>) |
| Course 6 | Social Studies (World History or World History Honors) |
| Course 7 | PE/Health |
| Course 8 | World Language (Spanish 3, Spanish 3 Hns, French 2, Chinese 2, German 2, - levels depend on prerequisites and eligibility for each language. See the Program of Studies for all options) |

Each student will be scheduled for **Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, World History,** and **World Language** using course eligibility as outlined in the High School Program of Studies. Students are scheduled automatically for **study hall** and **Physical Education/Health**. All students 9-12 are assigned a common lunch period.

Each student should come to the scheduling meeting with at least two electives (first choice and second choice). Students and parents/guardians who would like a reevaluation of course eligibility must request a course entrance criteria review by April 1st. The master schedule is built based on student requests; therefore, we strongly encourage your son/daughter make sound initial choices.

9th GRADE ELECTIVES

Visual and Performing Arts

Art Foundation
Chorale
Concert Band
Computer Art & Design I & II
Music Theory I
String Ensemble

21st Century Life and Careers or Career-Technical Education

Accounting I
Broadcast Writing
Child Growth and Development
Job Skills RC*
Culinary Arts
Digital Literacy
Principles of Engineering
Graphic Computer Applications
Intro to Computer Programming
Fashion Strategies
Journalism
TV Production

Financial Literacy

Financial Literacy**

Other 9th Grade Electives

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Reading | Integrated Reading and Writing* |
| Writing | Group Dynamics/Support ACD* |
| Writing Lab | Academy Elective ACD* |
| Speech/Drama | Support/Study Skills 1* |
| | Support/Study Skills 2* |

* These courses are by teacher placement only.

** Financial Literacy may be taken out of study hall.

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Accounting I - The course provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare them for the further study of accounting or to obtain a basic entry-level position.

Art Foundation (Art I) - This course is designed to fulfill the fine arts graduation requirement. Students taking this course will receive a firm grounding in the elements of art as well as experience in drawing and painting for observation. This course is required as a prerequisite for all semester art courses with the exception of Photography, Ceramics and Sculpture.

Broadcast Writing - Students with a genuine interest in the art and techniques of broadcasting will learn performance, production and writing for television and radio.

Child Growth and Development - Child Growth and Development is designed for students who have an interest in studying the growth and development of children. A special emphasis is placed on career possibilities in early childhood education and child care as the students operate a pre-school program within the high school classroom from November to May.

Chorale - Chorale is a performing ensemble available to any student interested in singing in a choir. The choir performs in concerts and for special events in the school and community. The members are trained in vocal technique and musicianship and perform a variety of major vocal works.

Computer Art & Design I & II: These courses are a survey of graphic design with computer-generated images. Students will be introduced to primary concepts in computer graphics and will be required to solve basic design problems.

Concert Band - Concert Band is designed to offer wind and percussion instrumentalists the opportunity to continue their training in traditional band literature. The band performs and experiences music of the highest quality.

Culinary Arts - Culinary Arts is designed for young men and women with little or no experience in food preparation. The course introduces the basic methods of food preparation with the emphasis upon making healthy food choices.

Digital Literacy - This course provides an in-depth investigation of existing and emerging technologies that will support a student's development in both education and careers. The assignments will be project based and help students to apply appropriate technologies to school or business problems.

Financial Literacy - The personal financial literacy course is designed to alert, inform, and educate students in concepts of personal finance and money management. Students will begin to develop the skills and strategies that promote personal and financial responsibility related to financial planning, savings, investment, and charitable giving in the global economy. Financial Literacy may be taken out of study hall.

Principles of Engineering - It is the goal of this course to challenge and engage students through a broad range of engineering topics, including mechanical, structural and, electrical with a focus on computer programming and artificial intelligence. Students will be responsible for the development of advanced computational and robotic systems through the application of various computer programming languages.

Fashion Strategies - Fashion Strategies offers the student the opportunity to explore the ever-changing world of fashion. Students learn how to operate and maintain a sewing machine and then construct clothing for themselves and others. An emphasis is placed on the retail merchandising industry.

Graphic Computer Applications - This course will cover several application programs upon which graphics are based and emphasized from paper publishing to web page publishing. Students will learn to utilize appropriate software in the creation of web pages, and graphic designs.

Intro to Computer Programming - Computer Programming offers an introduction to structured computer programming. Students will apply communications and data analysis to the problem-solving and decision making processes in a variety of life situations.

Journalism - Journalism provides an introduction to the essentials of writing with an emphasis on journalistic style.

Music Theory I - Music Theory I, designed to introduce students to knowledge of music rudiments through hands-on learning, is offered to all students interested in understanding the fundamentals of music theory.

Reading - Units of study are designed to promote the development of critical reading, writing and communication skills. Reading offers students individualized instruction for improvement in their reading skills.

Speech/Drama - Speech and Drama includes theatre history, acting and public speaking to encourage self-esteem and self-confidence.

String Ensemble - String Ensemble is designed to offer any student the opportunity to experience string literature of the highest quality.

TV Production - "TV Production" focuses on the intricacies of television. Students will survey the history and development of the art of television production and develop a more critical awareness of the workings of mass communication media. Students will become knowledgeable about the fundamentals of journalism and television writing.

Writing - Writing offers students extensive opportunities to develop talents and techniques for composing stories, essays, poems, narratives, dramatic scripts, and personal observations.

Writing Lab - The Writing Laboratory offers students individualized instruction for improvement in their writing skills.

MATHEMATICS OPTIONS

- Algebra I Part 2 / Algebra I
- Geometry / Geometry Honors
- Geometry Honors & Accelerated (*if qualified*)

Common Mathematics Course Sequences

| Grade 9 | Grade 10 | Grade 11 | Grade 12 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Algebra I Part 2 | Geometry | Algebra II | Algebra & Trigonometry |
| Algebra I | Geometry | Algebra II | Algebra & Trigonometry |
| Geometry | Advanced Algebra II | Pre-Calculus | Calculus Honors |
| Geometry Honors | Advanced Algebra II Honors | Pre-Calculus Honors | AP Calculus AB |
| Geometry Honors & ACC | Pre-Calculus Honors & ACC | AP Calculus BC | Multivariable Calculus HNS & ACC |

Calculators for Alg. I, Geometry or Geometry Honors

Scientific Calculator (approx. \$15) required for all algebra 1 and geometry courses.

Courses beyond geometry courses utilize the TI 83/TI 84 family of graphing calculators exclusively.

SCIENCE OPTIONS

- Conceptual Physics
- Environmental
- Biology
- Biology Honors

Common Science Course Sequences

| Yr. | Sequence 1 | Sequence 2 | Sequence 3 | Sequence 4 |
|------------|--|--|--|--|
| 9 | Biology | Hon. Biology | Conceptual Physics | Environmental |
| 10 | Chemistry or Chemistry Honors or Environmental | Chemistry or Chemistry Honors or Environmental | Biology or Honors Biology | Biology or Honors Biology |
| 11 | Physics or Physics Honors or Environmental or Electives | Physics or Physics Honors or Environmental or Electives | Chemistry or Chemistry Honors or Environmental or electives | Chemistry or Chemistry Honors |
| 12 | Electives | Electives | Chemistry or Chemistry Honors or Environmental or electives | Conceptual Physics or Physics or electives |

Science Electives (not available to 9th grade students)

1. AP Bio
2. AP Chem
3. Advanced Topics in Physics Honors
4. *Astronomy
5. Forensics
6. *Genetics
7. Human Anatomy and Physiology

*ASTERISK DENOTES SEMESTER COURSE

WORLD LANGUAGE OPTIONS

SPANISH

Students who have studied the language for three years in our middle school (4 Sequences)

| Sequence 1 | Sequence 2 | Sequence 3 | Sequence 4 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Spanish 3 | Spanish 3 | Spanish 3 Honors | Spanish 3 Honors |
| Spanish 4 | Spanish 4 | Spanish 4 Honors | Spanish 4 Honors |
| Spanish 5 | Spanish 5 | Honors Sp Cultural | AP Sp Language |
| Conversations in Spanish | Honors Sp Cultural | AP Sp Language | AP Spanish Lit |

Students who have only had two years of Spanish in middle school do not have the prerequisite for Spanish 3 or Spanish 3 Honors and may not schedule those courses. They may schedule for Spanish 2

Students beginning Spanish in 9th grade (2 options)

| Sequence 1 | Sequence 2 |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spanish 1 | Spanish 1 |
| Spanish 2 | Spanish 2 |
| Spanish 3 | Spanish 3 Honors |
| Spanish 4 | Spanish 4 Honors |

4 year sequence (by CST placement only)

| |
|---|
| Introduction to Spanish Communication & Culture |
| Spanish Language & Cultural Study |
| Spanish 1 |
| Spanish 2 |

FRENCH

Students from our middle school (2 options)

| Sequence 1 | Sequence 2 |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| French 2 | French 2 |
| French 3 | French 3 Honors |
| French 4 | French 4 Honors |
| French 5 | AP French |

Students beginning French in 9th grade (2 options)

| Sequence 1 | Sequence 2 |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| French 1 | French 1 |
| French 2 | French 2 |
| French 3 | French 3 Honors |
| French 4 | French 4 Honors |

GERMAN

Students from our middle school

| |
|------------------------|
| German 2 |
| German 3 |
| German 4 Hon |
| German 5 Hon/AP German |

Students beginning German in 9th grade

| |
|--------------|
| German 1 |
| German 2 |
| German 3 |
| German 4 Hon |

CHINESE

Students from our middle school

| |
|--------------------------|
| Chinese 2 |
| Chinese 3 |
| Chinese 4 Hon |
| Chinese 5 Hon/AP Chinese |

Students beginning Chinese in 9th grade

| |
|---------------|
| Chinese 1 |
| Chinese 2 |
| Chinese 3 |
| Chinese 4 Hon |

Note: Heritage Speakers of any language are placed according to their ability.

SOCIAL STUDIES OPTIONS

World History provides a survey of the significant time periods of human development from the Age of Absolutism to the present. Coursework promotes historical thinking, critical reading, and analytical reasoning skills. Current events, furthermore, are integrated into the curriculum in order to bridge past and modern events.

World History Honors explores the same periods in human development studied in the World History course and promotes historical thinking, critical reading, and analytical reasoning skills. Current events are deliberately integrated into the curriculum to develop a more sophisticated understanding of the connections between the past and present. While World History and World History Honors both use primary and secondary source materials, the Honors program uses materials that demonstrate greater text complexity and requires stronger and more independent research, writing, and historical thinking skills.

LANGUAGE ARTS OPTIONS

Language Arts I provides rigorous instruction in all aspects of language skills, including reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and thinking. Students are introduced to formal expository writing, placing an emphasis on inferential and analytical thinking.

Language Arts I Honors involves more reading and writing, literary analysis, and careful exploration of style and thought than LA I. Students should develop higher-level reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and thinking skills and write skillful and analytical essays throughout the year.

ESL OPTIONS (ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE)

World History ESL

ESL Language Arts

ESL Science

ESL Biology

ESL Study Skills: