2020-2021 9th Grade Course Catalog

CORE CLASSES

**LA9: Introduction to Literature and Composition**
*9th grade – yearlong*.5 credit per semester  Honors designation available

Introduction to Literature and Composition is a year-long course that concentrates on guided and critical reading of texts from different genres that reflect themes of identity and self-discovery. The focus of composition is developing clear and purposeful writing.

**Algebra I:**
*Yearlong*: .5 credit per semester  Prerequisites: None

The Algebra 1 math course teaches students to develop math skills and confidence, use tools (graphing calculators, geometry sketchpad, and Fathom 2), and mathematical power to make important decisions in real world situations. The course focuses on conceptual understanding of data gathering and analysis, linear equations to model real world situations, systems of equations, and quadratic equations.

**Geometry**
*Yearlong*: .5 credit per semester  Honors designation available

Prerequisites: Pass Algebra 1 with A or B and pass the Algebra 1 end of course examination.

The Geometry math course teaches students to identify and recognize shapes based on properties, establish relationships among properties within figures and within hierarchies of figures, use formal and informal inductive and deductive proofs to explain the truth of geometric theorems and to justify certain conclusions. The course focuses on space geometry in two and three dimensions, inductive and deductive reasoning, mathematical modeling, duplication of segments, angles and triangles, discovering and proving polygon properties, arcs and angles, compositions of transformations, triangle trigonometry and platonic solids. Students are held to a high standard of rigor, there is more emphasis on axiomatic proofs and topics are explored in greater depth.

**Algebra 2**
*Yearlong*: .5 credit per semester  Honors designation available

Prerequisites: An A or B in both Algebra 1 and Geometry. Students have to pass both Algebra 1 and Geometry end of course examination, teacher recommendation.

Students learn to derive equations, to model pure-algebra concepts using data analysis, and to present solutions to math problems using multiple representations. The topics in this course include describing data, linear models, functions and relations, transformation, exponential and logarithmic functions, quadratic and polynomial functions, conic sections, sequences and series, rational functions, and trigonometry. Students are held to a high standard of rigor, there is more emphasis on axiomatic proofs and topics are explored in greater depth.

**PHYSICS A/CHEMISTRY A**
*Yearlong*: .5 credit per semester  Prerequisite: None

Physics: Students will study Law of Gravitation, electromagnetic radiation and its effects on matter, technological devices, and the Big Bang theory.

Chemistry: Students will study Origin of the Elements, fission, fusion and radioactive decay, simple chemical reactions, structure of substances and forces between particles, designing materials. Students will refine their science and engineering skills within the context of an engaging storyline to explain a phenomenon.

**Contemporary world Problems & World History I**
*9th grade – yearlong*: .5 credit per semester  Prerequisites: None  Honors designation available

Contemporary World Problems and World History I explore the emergence of civilizations across the globe up to 1900 C.E. Students investigate how civilizations grew and evolved into kingdoms, empires, and eventually the nations we recognize today. They also examine and analyze economic, political, and social themes and investigate how patterns of interaction impacted the growth and as well as the evolution of the world. The class is aligned to Common Core Reading and Writing standards. This ensures that students develop a strong foundation in reading informative texts as well as in writing expository and persuasive essays. Students will write at least two research papers and will be introduced to a more rigorous homework load with coaching on how to meet the intellectual and professional demands of high school.
**Personal Fitness**  
*9th grade – one semester: .5 credit*  
*Prerequisites: None*  
This is the introductory Physical Education class for 9th grade students required by the Seattle School District. Students will have general PE team sport units ranging from Ultimate Frisbee to Volleyball, and fitness testing. Students will also study the following topics that reflect the *Five for Life* Health and Fitness Concepts: Introduction to Fitness, and Fitness Planning, the importance of muscular strength and muscular endurance, the importance of cardio respiratory endurance to healthy living, how body composition impacts life, and the importance of flexibility in maintaining a healthy life. The course culminates with a State of Washington Classroom Based Assessment Test, based on the *Five for Life* Health and Fitness Concepts.

**Health**  
*9th grade – one semester: .5 credit  
Prerequisites: none*  
In Family Health you will be exploring your social, emotional, sexual, physical, intellectual, vocational, and spiritual health. You will have the opportunity to study issues related to making informed decisions and well as building healthy communication skills. Topics include nutrition and fitness, mental health, substance use and abuse, human sexuality, and more. You will also have opportunities to explore careers and work on leadership skills through FCCLA.

**ELECTIVE CLASSES**

**World Languages**  
*Two years of a world language are required for graduation; four-year colleges and universities recommend students take 2-3 years of a language for admission*  

- Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4, UW in High School  
- FRENCH 1, 2, 3 UW in High School  
- Chinese 1, 2, 3  

*Prerequisites: Students should have a 60% or higher grade in previous course (except level 1) or native speaker status. Students who have been most successful in any level have had an 80-85% or higher in previous world language level. Homework: 30-60 minutes/night*

Past Freshmen enrolled in Spanish II, French II, or Chinese II have found that succeeding in second year High School foreign language presents a high-level challenge. Incoming Freshmen and Transfer Students who enroll in any of these courses will be expected to independently review and master first-year material before the beginning of the school year and periodically throughout the course.

- Level 1 focuses on written and oral communication in the present tense. The first year covers greetings and simple conversations, the use of correct grammar, spelling, punctuation and syntax in basic writing assignments, and simple reading of forms, maps, advertisements and letters. Basic cultural information is also part of the course.  
- Level 2 adds the past tense to the skills mastered in level one, with additional vocabulary and more details of grammar and syntax in spoken language, reading and written work. There is a continued focus on cultural information.

**CERAMICS BEGINNING**  
*All grades – one semester: .5 credit  
Prerequisites: None*  
Students will learn basic hand building, wheel throwing, and glazing techniques. Students will complete the course with a power point portfolio including 8 finished pieces. Students are introduced to ceramic artists and processes through slide presentations and are also required to write a paper on a ceramic artist of their choice. Students create projects which include a Raku fired pot, portrait project, cultural sgraffito pot, and an animal. This is an engaging course with new experiences to help students find a passion for the ceramic arts.

**CERAMICS ADVANCED**  
*All grades – one semester: .5 credit  
Prerequisites: Ceramics Beginning*  
Advanced students will work on building on skills and techniques they learned in beginning ceramics. Students will learn to write proposals for independent projects as well as write a personal artist statement and experiment with glazing techniques. Students will have many opportunities to build skills in wheel throwing, Raku, sgraffito, and combining hand building techniques. Advanced students will also work on sculptures and functional pottery on a larger scale.
**GRAPHIC DESIGN (qualifies as Fine Arts or CTE)**

*All grades – one semester: .5 credit  Prerequisites: None*

Graphic Design is the art of visual communication through two-dimensional works using images and text. Students interested in the design fields such as book design/publishing, advertising, presentation design, packaging design, magazine layout, corporate design, should enroll in this course. Students will apply their knowledge of the elements of art and principles of design to strengthen their visual literacy. We will explore a range of design techniques using Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and, In-Design software programs and study the design work of contemporary and historical designers. Possible projects include symbol/logo development, poster design, CD covers, magazine covers, book arts and tee-shirts. Students will maintain a digital portfolio of their work as a midterm and final exam. Students will be expected to use a digital camera to create original imagery to be used in their design work.

**Drama Beginning**

*All grades – one semester: .5 credit  Prerequisites: None*

Students will survey different theatrical skills. The focus is on developmental or creative drama rather than on published works. Through games, exercises and assignments, students will explore speech, improvisation, directing, play writing and team work. The willingness to perform in front of an audience is essential.

**Drama Advanced**

*All grades – one semester: .5 credit  Prerequisite: Drama Beginning*

Advanced Drama continues to develop skills developed in Drama I. As a member of a product-based class and a professional theater students will be performing monologues, new works, pre-published scenes. Students must be willing to perform in front of an audience.

**Chorus**

*All grades – one semester: .5 credit  Prerequisites: None*

Intermediate to advanced choral performing ensemble. Performs quality choral literature from a variety of genres, cultures, and styles and learns correct vocal technique and musicianship skills.

**Concert/Marching Band:**

*All grades - yearlong: .5 credit per semester  Prerequisites: Basic proficiency on band instrument or teacher permission*

The WSHS Band functions as both the Concert Band and the Marching/Pep Band and is open to all students who play a band instrument. We perform in a variety of settings including parades, concerts and athletic events. Students will improve their skills in articulation, rhythm, tone production, intonation, instrument facility and overall musicality. Participation in occasional rehearsals and performances outside of class time is mandatory for all students. This course can be taken for more than one semester for additional credit. Select students from this class will be invited to participate in the WSHS Musical second semester.

**Orchestra**

*All grade -- yearlong: .5 credit per semester  Prerequisites: Basic proficiency on string instrument or teacher permission*

The West Seattle Orchestra is a dynamic ensemble that performs at a variety of concerts and events throughout the school year. Students gain a solid foundation in string technique, music theory and history as we explore a wide variety of classical and contemporary literature. Participation in occasional rehearsals and performances outside of class time is mandatory for all students. This course can be taken for more than one semester for additional credit. Select students from this class will be invited to participate in the WSHS Musical second semester.

**Beginning/Intermediate Guitar**

*All grades – one semester: .5 credit per semester  Prerequisites: None*

Students taking this class will gain a basic understanding of guitar technique and music theory through group activities, individual instruction from the teacher, practice time, class discussions and weekly recitals. Students will learn to read and write music and guitar tab in addition to gaining the basic understanding of the construction of music.

**Piano**

*All grades – one semester/yearlong: .5 credit per semester Prerequisites: None*

Students will gain a basic understanding of piano technique and music theory through group activities, individual instruction from the teacher, individual practice time, class discussions and weekly recitals. Students will learn to read and write music in addition to gaining the basic concepts of music theory. This class is open to beginning and intermediate level piano students.

**Jazz Ensemble:**

*All grades- one semester/yearlong: .5 credit per semester  Prerequisites: Teacher permission 0 Period Only!*

Students learn and perform music from a wide variety of traditional and contemporary jazz literature. Focus of this ensemble is interpretation, articulation, improvisation and style. This ensemble performs at a variety of local and regional events. Participation in occasional rehearsals and performances outside of class time is mandatory for all students. This class is open to all students with at least basic proficiency playing saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, bass, guitar, and drums. Please note that this class is a zero period course and meets before school every day. This course can be taken for more than one semester for additional credit.
Auto I (Beginning)  
*All grades – one semester: .5 credit*  
*Prerequisites: None*  
In this one semester class, the complexities of the automobile will be broken down into entry-level, digestible, basic sections. Students will learn how to perform and act in a shop environment. We will learn how the engine works and why it runs. We will explore basic maintenance and diagnostic procedures that everyone who drives a vehicle should know about, and we will have fun doing it.

CAD Design and Engineering I  
*All grades – one semester: .5 credit each semester*  
*Prerequisites: None*  
Students will begin by learning how to identify and create scale drawings in plan, elevation and isometric perspective views. We will then utilize these drawings to build an accurate 3D model. Finally, this 3D model will be constructed utilizing fabrication methods and technology common to industrial manufacturing. Software utilized will include Rhinoceros 3D, Surf Cam and Google Sketchup. Manufacturing tech will include CNC routers, Laser Cutter/Engravers, and Rapid Prototyping 3D printers.

Introduction to Computer Science  
*All grades – one semester: .5 credit*  
*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Geometry*  
This course is an introduction to computer science and software engineering for all students interested in developing software applications, not just using them. Through a project-oriented approach, students will explore a variety of programming systems and languages to create interactive applications and systems. By collaborating in a hands-on environment, students will learn problem solving, software design, debugging strategies, and the foundations of computer science (data structures, procedures, and algorithms). Using open-source software tools, students will work on projects.

Digital Photography Beginning  
*All grades – one semester: .5 credit*  
*Prerequisites: None*  
Students in Photography class will work on three large photography projects (Portraits, Landscapes, and Still Life/Close Ups) and compete in at least one judged photography show at WSHS. Students will learn the basic functions of working with a digital camera and Photoshop editing software to improve their photographs.

Baking and Pastry/Introduction to Culinary Arts  
*9th—11th grade—one semester: .5 credit*  
*Prerequisites: None*  
Want to impress your friends and palate with creative and fun desserts!? Do you love the smell of fresh bread baking? This is a semester introduction to culinary arts that focuses on basic baking and pastry skills. Learn to create and plate gourmet desserts, pastries, breads, and quick breads. Experiment with chocolate and other desserts while building basic math skills like measuring using scales and the metric system. Learn basic safety and sanitation skills while in the kitchen as well as develop food service and marketing skills. You will also be able to explore food photography and journalism through this class as well as participate in community and school catering events. You must take this course or nutrition to enroll in the advanced culinary classes (ProStart).

Woodworking I  
*All grades – one semester: .5 credit*  
*Prerequisites: None*  
Course curriculum combines technical instruction with “hands on” shop experience through the construction of assigned projects. Students will learn to operate the tools and machines used in the trades and industry. Upon completion of the course, students will understand the necessity of safe and precise work; demonstrate measurement skills, woodworking vocabulary and the techniques and processes used to produce quality work. Course also qualifies for Tech Prep (college) credit.

Yearbook  
*All grade -- yearlong: .5 credit per semester*  
*Prerequisites: None*  
Would you like to be involved in creating a lasting legacy for your school? Do you love taking pictures and using your creative skills? If so, Yearbook Journalism is the class for you. Students in this class will work to produce a high-quality yearbook. Students will learn the skills required to write journalistic quality copy, including interviews; take and edit high quality photographs; and design print publications using current computer editing programs. Contact Ms. McKinney if you have questions.