

# 9<sup>th</sup> GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## 2019-2020



### **Required Courses**

#### **ENGLISH**

**Applied English 9** - This course is for students who have been qualified for an IEP in English. (Year)

**English 9** - This class is designed to prepare students for high school. It will emphasize grammar, sentence structure, and composition. Comprehension skills and understanding of literature will be taught through Romeo and Juliet, Greek mythology, novels, poetry, and short stories. (Year)

**English 9 Honors** - Students will have opportunities to practice higher level thinking, reading, and writing due to an increase in rigor, inquiry, and reflection in class curriculum. Honors students are expected to be independent learners, read above the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level, and have superior writing ability. Students can expect rapid movement through course materials, resulting in expanded literature and writing opportunities. Students need to have a 'B' average or better in English. It is expected that students will have access to the internet and a computer at home. Previous Honors experience is recommended. (Year)

#### **MATH**

##### **Applied Secondary Math IA**

This course is for students who have been qualified for an IEP in Math. (Year)

**Secondary Mathematics I** - This course will focus on developing a solid understanding of function and use that understanding to explore many examples of functions, including sequences. It will deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships and connect that understanding to exponential functions. It will build on prior experiences with data to develop formal methods of data analysis. Students will use properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge. Algebraic and geometric ideas will be tied together. (Year)

##### **Secondary Mathematics I Honors**

This course will cover all the concepts in the Secondary Mathematics I course. Concepts will be explored in greater depth with increased use of contextual situations. It will also include concepts dealing with vectors and quantities of vectors and matrix operations and their applications. This course will include elements that will prepare students to take Calculus in high school. This course will have increased rigor and advanced content that will challenge the minds of high ability students. (Year)

##### **Secondary Mathematics II Honors**

###### **Prerequisite Secondary Math I**

This course will cover all the concepts in the Secondary Mathematics II course with increased rigor and advanced content that will challenge the minds of high ability students. Concepts will be explored in greater depth with increased use of contextual situations. In addition, they will study complex numbers and their operations on the complex plane, solve systems of equations, prove and apply trigonometric identities, express conic sections algebraically, and solve problems using volume measurements. This course will include elements that will prepare students to take Calculus in high school. (Year)

#### **SCIENCE**

**Earth Science** - Students will learn about science principles that govern the order of space and earth. Students will understand how the geosphere, atmosphere and hydrosphere work individually as well as how they interact with each other. The concept of matter cycling and energy flow will be used to guide students in the understanding of Earth Science. (Year)

**Earth Science Honors** - In this course, students will cover the same information as Earth Science at a more rigorous pace. Emphasis will be placed on synthesizing, analyzing and reflection through inquiry-based learning activities. All students will be required to participate in the school Science Fair. (Year)

**Biology Honors** - Students will study how ecosystems are shaped by interactions among living organisms and their environment and how energy flows through the system. The chemistry, structure, and function of a cell as the basic unit of life will be explored and how the function of a cell determines its role in an organism. Organs and organ systems, along with their functions and structures in the organism will be explored. DNA inheritance, replication, and mutation will be covered. Evolutionary processes related to species diversification will be explored as well as how populations change over time. **Students must be at grade-level math with a grade of a B or better.** (Year)

#### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

**World Geography** - World Geography is a study of people, places, cultures, and the effect of human actions on the world, and the environment's effect on mankind. Students will analyze informational texts, media sources, maps, mapping technology including GPS, charts, graphs, and statistics. We will cover geography essentials and regional study of each part of the world. (Year)

##### **AP Human Geography**

The purpose of the AP course in Human Geography is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of the Earth's surface. Students will analyze informational texts, media sources, maps, mapping technology including GPS, charts, graphs, and statistics. This is a full year course offering that will prepare students to receive college credit upon passing the AP test. This is a university-level course and will move at a rigorous pace. Students should expect to work every day in class and regularly have out-of-class readings and assignments. In addition to potentially earning University credits, students will experience a college-level course and gain a greater understanding of the world in which we live and the development of analytical thinking skills. Students

must have demonstrated excellence in Social Studies. (Year)

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**P.E.** - Students will be involved in a variety of co-ed team activities which will develop good attitudes towards physical fitness and healthy lifestyles. Good sportsmanship is emphasized. Activities will aid in developing motor skills, individual coordination, and the cardiovascular system. Skills testing will be at an intermediate level. A required P.E. uniform will be used. (Semester)

**Warrior Wellness** - Students will be involved in activities that allow physical movement and cardio activities. Focus will be placed on health and wellness of the body through activity and nutrition. (Semester)

## **Elective Courses**

### **CAREER TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**

#### **FACS**

(FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES)

#### **Apparel Design/Production I**

This course is designed as an intermediate sewing class which will expand the student's knowledge and experience in the clothing and textiles area. It prepares individuals with skills in clothing construction. Easy beginning projects are made to ensure quick success. **FEE \$10 with additional fees to total approximately \$40** (Semester)

**Child Development I** - This course helps students attain an understanding of the aspects of human growth and development. Parenting skills are developed, positive guidance techniques and child-related issues are studied. Students will have the opportunity to experience hands-on parenting using an infant simulator (electronic baby). **FEE \$10** (Semester)

#### **Teaching as a Profession**

Experience and participate as you learn about the role and characteristics of an effective educator. Observe and participate with teachers and students in the classroom. Learn about current teaching methods and instructional strategies. Explore assessments and

when/how to use them. Discover how students learn and instruction for special student populations. Recognize ways to effectively use educational technology in the classroom. (Semester)

**Fashion Design Studio** - This course introduces students to the world of fashion. Areas to be included are elements and principles of design, textiles, consumerism and careers. **FEE \$10** (Semester)

**Foods/Nutrition I** - This class is designed for the students who are excited to develop both their knowledge of lab management as well as food preparation skills. This course includes instruction in proper nutrition for optimal fitness and physical performance. Attention is given to the selection and preparation of food and to personal health and well-being. **FEE \$15** (Semester)

**Interior Design** - This course includes identification of the elements and principles of design, housing choices, area planning, and careers. **FEE \$10** (Semester)

### **TECHNICAL/ENGINEERING**

**Exploring Computer Science**  
**This class fulfills the .5 Credit Digital Studies Graduation Requirement.** Exploring Computer Science is designed to introduce students to the breadth of the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Rather than focusing the entire course on learning software tools or programming languages, the course is designed to focus the conceptual ideas of computing and help students understand why certain tools or languages might be utilized to solve problems. Students will also be introduced to topics such as interface design, limits of computers and societal and ethical issues.

#### **Web Development 1 (Sem)**

This course is designed to guide students in a project-based environment in the development of up-to-date concepts and skills that are used in the development of today's websites. Students will learn the fundamentals of how the internet works. They will learn and use the

basic building blocks of the World Wide Web: HTML5 coding, cascading style sheets (CSS), and JavaScript. They follow the steps to create a website by planning, designing, developing, deploying, and maintaining of the website projects. Students will learn and use different scripting technologies to create more dynamic and interactive websites. They will learn what it takes for a career in web development as they complete projects and create their own website.

#### **Engineering Tech I**

**Prerequisite 'B' grade or higher in previous technology classes.**

The purpose of this Pre-Engineering course is to expose students to a broad overview of the field of technology and engineering. The course has been designed to be a problem-solving experience using math, science, and technology. It is a great introductory course to the high school pre-engineering courses from "Project Lead the Way." Those high school courses can give students up to one year of college engineering credit if fully completed. In this class, students will measure, draft, and learn about electricity and electronics. Students will also learn about and use simple machines, energy transfer, and use automation and robotics. **FEE \$10** (Semester)

#### **Manufacturing Tech I**

This course is a broad exploratory course that introduces students to the manufacturing industry. Through hands-on activities, students will learn how manufactures use technology to change raw materials into finished products. The course will include: a brief history of manufacturing, social impacts, types of manufacturing production, design processes, properties of materials, manufacturing processes, safe use of tools and equipment, free enterprise and marketing principles, and career exploration. Students will participate in a state skills test. **FEE \$10 plus \$10-\$15 for personal projects.** (Semester)

#### **Intro to Construction Tech I**

This course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of construction practices and how construction impacts their life, both

socially and professionally. These impacts are explored using five elements that include: career opportunities, design, measurements, tools, and materials. Students will learn to measure, design a floor plan, and safely use shop equipment. Students will also construct different projects in the shop. **FEE \$10 plus \$10-\$15 for personal projects.** (Semester)

### **Pinterest to Projects**

A hands-on, activity-based class introducing students to the research, design, documentation and production of various types of Pinterest projects. This course will introduce students to various craft manufacturing processes in wood, plastic, metal and other raw materials. **Student must have a Pinterest account. Additional student fees are required.** (Semester)

### **Vex Robotics**

Students will learn to build and program VEX IQ robots. Students will practice mechanical design, construction, programming and teamwork skills. Using VEX IQ building pieces, motors and sensors, students will build robots that can complete a variety of challenges and obstacles. Students will use a controller to drive their robot and a computer to program their robot. In this course, students will work through processes of idea creation, planning, logical thinking, analysis and computational thinking to solve problems and accomplish goals. This course is designed for students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade who are interested in developing their programming and engineering skills.

## **ELECTIVE CREDIT**

### **DEBATE/ NAL**

**Debate** - Introductory Course to Debate. Students will participate in a variety of speech activities designed to increase communication, argumentative and persuasive skills as well as confidence in public speaking. (Semester)

**NAL**–National Academic League This class is a quiz bowl and presentation team. Student try outs are in October with practices in November and December. Games are in January and February (both home and away with teams on the south end of the district). Additional games may be held in March for National Championship games. (Semester)

## **MATH**

### **Math Lab**

#### **Teacher Recommendation Only**

This class is designed to help students who may struggle with math concepts as they transition to the common core math curriculum. (Semester)

## **TEACHER AND STUDENT ASSISTANTS**

### **Office Assistant - Application Only**

Students will assist in the main office. Student must have a 3.0 GPA or above, good citizenship and an approved application. (Semester)

### **Peer Tutor - Application Only**

Peer tutor duties include tutoring students with their academic work while modeling appropriate behavior. In accompanying a student to a regular education class, a Peer Tutor may take notes, keep students on task, and report the student's behavior and progress to the Special Education Teacher. In the Functional Skills classroom, Peer Tutors work one-on-one with students on their academic assignments. This is an excellent course and future job reference for students who have an interest in the following occupations: Teaching, Medicine, Psychology, Social Work, and Service Industry. (Semester)

### **Teacher Assistant**

#### **Application Only**

Student must have good attendance, good citizenship and an approved application. This class is designed to allow student to work directly with a teacher as a Teacher Assistant. Students will learn basic business and filing procedures. (Semester)

## **YEARBOOK**

### **Yearbook/ Creative Writing** **Application Only**

Students taking yearbook class will be involved in designing the school yearbook for West Point Jr. High. Students will complete several tasks to create a quality yearbook that reflects the history of the school year using eDesign software. Assignments will include developing a theme, designing a cover, taking photos for assigned activities, producing a layout design for assigned pages, and making changes to those pages as requested. It is important that students involved in the yearbook process work well as a team player. Grades are based on quality of work, effort, and timeliness. **Open to 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders.** (Year)

## **FINE ARTS**

### **ART**

**Art Foundations II** - Expands on a student's basic knowledge of the elements and principles of design. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art-related technology skills, art history, and aesthetics. **Additional fees required.** (Semester)

**Intro to Ceramics I** - This course is for the high school Visual Arts Core Curriculum. Ceramics develops basic skills in the creation of 3D form and pottery from clays with an emphasis on studio production. This course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art-related technology skill, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics. **Additional fees required.** (Semester)

### **Painting - Prerequisite Foundations Art I and II**

This is an introductory course to the elements of painting. Painting includes wet media with processes such as transparent and opaque painting and focusses on the operations of color. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher level thinking, art-related technology, skill, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics. **Additional fees required.** (Semester)

### **Drawing I**

**Art I Prerequisite**-Drawing focuses on black and white monochromatic rendering from life, pictures,

masterworks, and imagination. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher level thinking and art related technology skills. Some experience in art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included. (semester)

## **BAND**

**Band Level I Brass** - Students will learn basic skills in fingering, embouchure, notation and music theory. This class includes trumpets, trombones, baritones, and French horns. (Year)

**Band Level I Woodwind** - Students will learn basic skills in fingering, notation, and music theory. This class includes clarinets, saxophones, flutes, oboes, bassoons. (Year)

**Band Level II (Concert Band)** This class will be comprised mostly of instrumentalists who have passed the beginning level. (Year)

**Band Level III (Wind Ensemble)**  
**Teacher Approval Required**

This will be our instrumental performing group to represent us in district festivals and other programs. (Year)

**Jazz Band Level II (Audition Only)**  
**This auditioned ensemble meets before school. Students playing saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and drums must also be enrolled in a band class.** Guitarists interested in auditioning must be able to read standard notation and chord changes (not tab). They should also be familiar with jazz chord voicing. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required or may result in dismissal from the band. The Jazz Band performs at evening concerts, assemblies, festivals, and community functions. (Year)

**Percussion (All Levels) Piano**  
**background strongly recommended**  
Students will learn basic skills in notation, rhythm, and music theory. (Year)

## **CHOIR**

**Choir I Women S/A** - This Choir teaches the fundamentals of music reading and singing. The choir sings a great variety of music and will do some choreography. This choir will perform regularly in concerts

throughout the year. Attendance at concerts is mandatory. (Year)

**Choir I Men T/B** - This Choir is a great chance for boys to learn to sing! They will sing music of all styles and perform regularly at concerts throughout the year. Attendance at concerts is mandatory. Students will learn the fundamentals of music theory. (Year)

**Choir II (Crescendo Choir)**  
**Teacher Permission Required**

This is a mixed ensemble that will represent WPJH to the public. This group will perform in concerts at school and outside of school. Attendance at the concerts is mandatory. This group will learn theory and vocal skills. They will sing a great variety of music and perform at District Festival. (Year)

**Chorus Level III (Madrigals)**

**Audition Only** - This is a mixed ensemble selected by audition that will represent WPJH to the public. This group will perform in concerts at school and outside of school. Attendance at the concerts is mandatory. This group will learn theory and vocal skills. They will sing a great variety of music, some of which will be choreographed. (Year)

## **ORCHESTRA**

**Orchestra Level I** - This is a beginning level course for students who have had 1 year of playing or willing to work hard to catch up. See general description below. (Year)

**Orchestra Level II** - This course is for students who have taken Level I orchestra or played two years or more. This is a performing group for festivals and competitions. See general description below. (Year)

**Orchestra Level III** - This course is for students who have taken Level II orchestra or played for three years or more. This is a performing group for festivals and competitions. See general description below. (Year)

**All Orchestra Levels General Description** - Students will develop and refine skills in playing, listening

to, reading, creating and evaluating music at a faster rate and with more advanced music each level progressed. Students will develop musical skills while learning valuable life skills such as teamwork, goal-setting, proper social skills, personal responsibility and integrity. The students' progress will be determined by the quality of performance rendered in front of a live audience. Students will be expected to participate in concerts and performances outside the normal class day, at least (but not limited to) once a term. Instruments offered are violin, viola, cello or double bass. **Students must provide their own instruments. School cellos and basses are available for \$95 per year. Concert black dress required. \$10 Fee**

## **THEATER**

**Theater 1** - Students will take an integrated approach to finding meaning in works of theatre through the study and appreciation of theatre as an art form, constructing meaning in works of theatre art through the student and skill development of theatre techniques in the creation of that theatre art. Students will also participate in scene, pantomime, and monologue presentations. **Class size is limited.** (Semester)

**Theater Foundation II**

**Prerequisite Passing grade in Theater I.** This course will continue to study theater as an art form, constructing meaning in works of theater art, and continued skill development of theater techniques. This is a performance class, with poems, monologues, scene work, and theater critiques. (Semester)

**Theater Foundation II-B**

**Prerequisite theater 1&2** To the basic concepts and goals of theatre education, this course adds depth as well as breadth through the study of production unity, character conflict, character motivation through movement and voice, projecting moods and feelings, trust, the design concepts of visualization and technology, researching a script, variety in art forms, assessing the performance effectiveness and famous theatre professionals. (Semester)

## **WORLD LANGUAGES**

**Spanish I - A “B” average in English is required to take a foreign language class.** Instruction may begin in any grade 7-9. Students begin this course with no functional skills in the language. The course, regardless of language, is an introduction to the culture in which the language is spoken, its language, and its people. The main emphasis is on oral skills while developing reading and writing skills. The student will recognize the interrelationships of languages and will develop appreciation for the target culture. The focus of this course is on novice to low proficiency. At the completion of the course, the goal is for students to be able to function at the novice to mid-range level. (Year)

**Spanish II - A “B” average in English is required to take a foreign language class.** Students should first complete the Level I course or have equivalent experience in the target language before taking this course. Because this course builds on the skills acquired in a level I class, the students should begin with a fluency rating of novice to mid-range. The level II course continues to develop the oral skills with added emphasis on reading and writing skills. The focus is on the development of novice-mid to mid-high proficiency. Expansion of vocabulary and grammatical structures continues. Contrast between English and the target language strengthen the language learning process. Culturally related activities of selected countries in the target culture or regions will be explored. At the completion of this course, the goal is for students to be able to function at the novice to high range. (Year)

**Spanish III - Prerequisite language proficiency in the novice-high range or a “B” in Spanish Level II. A “B” average in English is also required to take a foreign language course.** Level III classes are often a turning point in the students’ language learning experience as they are now able to successfully navigate most day-to-day interactions, gather greater meaning from things they read and hear, and excitement increases as they are now able to use their language skills in a more meaningful way due to their ability to “create” with the

language. This course continues to develop the oral skills with added emphasis on reading and writing skills. The focus is on the development of novice-high to intermediate-low proficiency. Expansion of vocabulary and grammatical structures continues. At the completion of this course, the goal is for students to be able to function in the novice-high/intermediate-low range. (Year)

## **RELEASED TIME**

**Seminary -** Open to all 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. This class is religious instruction sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Parents also need to complete a separate online registration. (Year)