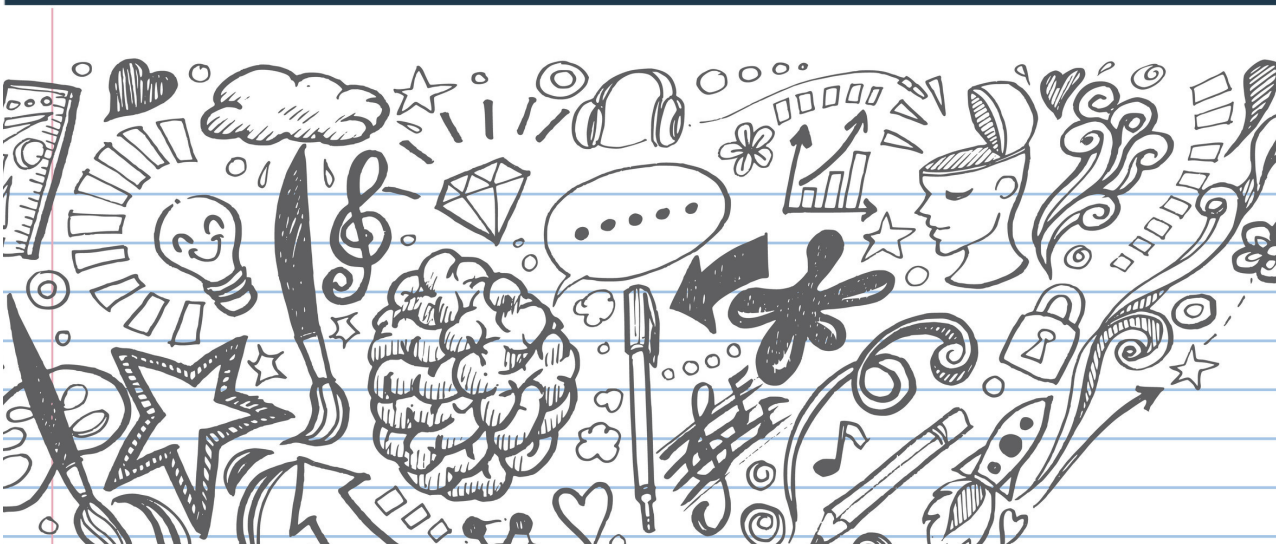
TQS High School

Interventions.Business Literacy.Bright Futures

Your Guide to Grade 9

TQS Upper School Curriculum Overview



Welcome to Grade 9

Grade 9 is an important year for all adolescents, yet it is especially foundational for young adults with complex challenges. The first year in Upper School brings with it expanding responsibility; personal, social, and academic growth; and preparation for the future.

Here at The Quaker School at Horsham, 9th grade is about more than continuing your child's education -- it's about building their confidence as they transition into adulthood and begin exploring opportunities in the workforce, continued education, and independent living.

Our course curriculum is thoughtfully designed to support student progress and address individual skill deficits. Our goal: **to give every 9th-grade student the skills and support they need to shine bright in their future path.**

Grade 9 students learn to:

- Apply skills and strategies
- Creatively problem-solve
- Achieve individual success
- Embrace differences
- Engage in trusting relationships
- Be compassionate
- Have self-worth
- Advocate for themselves
- Feel secure in their future

A Day in 9th Grade

Sample Schedule

	9th grade					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
9:00	Health 9:00-10:10	ELA 9:00-10:10	MFB	Math 9:00-10:10	Science 9:00-10:10	MFB
10:10-10:30	BREAK	BREAK	Word Study 9:30 - 10:30	BREAK	BREAK	Word Study 9:30 - 10:30
10:30-11:30	Humanities	Science	ELA	Business Literacy	Health	Science
11:30-12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:00-12:30	Math	Word Study 12:00-1:00	MFW	ELA	Word Study 12:00-1:00	Business Literacy
12:30-1:00						
1:00-2:00	Business Literacy	Math	Humanities	Health	Math	ELA
2:00-2:30	Word Study 2:00-3:00	Health	Science	Word Study 2:00-3:00	ELA	Humanities
2:30-3:10						
3:10-3:30	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory
3:30-3:45	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom
3:45-4:00	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal

Course Descriptions

LANGUAGE ARTS

English: Literature and the Mechanics of English

This course focuses on the core components of the English language: literature, writing, speaking/listening, and presenting. It introduces students to literature through different genres, including poetry, short stories, nonfiction, dramas, novels, and fairy tales. Students use a variety of strategies to create written texts to inform, to persuade, to describe, and to entertain, as well as practice grammar, mechanics and paragraphing. Throughout the course, students give informal and formal presentations to the class, and even to the Head of School!

Research 101

Prerequisite: Literature and the Mechanics of English or teacher recommendation.
In this course, students take a different approach to the research writing process. They begin with oral presentations to gain a better understanding of the difference between fact and opinion, good research and bad, common knowledge and what needs citation. The course helps students develop a deeper understanding of the subject and the hierarchical presentation of that understanding. Students then move into writing, learning all aspects of the paper-writing process from pre-writing to final draft. Genres of writing include expository, persuasive, and a final paper.

MATH

The Upper School math program is designed to meet the diverse needs of all students as they prepare to enter a world where mathematical skills are of increasing importance, especially for special needs students. TQS curriculum integrates new mathematics with the old to ensure that students acquire the fundamentals while becoming familiar with the rapidly expanding frontiers in this field, and within science and technology.

Since TQS is student-centered and differentiates to meet the needs of every individual, we offer two math branches:

Course Descriptions

Branch 1	Branch 2
Math Intervention	Pre-Algebra
Functional Math	Algebra I
Financial Algebra	Geometry
Business Math	Algebra II/Trigonometry

Branch 1

Math Intervention

A remedial math course (K-8) taught through concrete, pictorial, and abstract concepts.

Functional Math

A course designed for students who have had difficulties in math, need to fill in the gaps in their background, and refine skills they have learned but not mastered. The subject matter depends on students' needs and varies each year. Students use real-world applications to study skills and concepts.

Financial Algebra

Students build on and connect their prior knowledge of math concepts from other courses and apply them to real-life financial practices. Topics of study include investing, banking, credit, income taxes, insurance, and household budgeting. Students review and strengthen algebra mechanics and problem-solving skills, and better understand how algebra is used in daily life.

Course Descriptions

Business Math
Students master the skills necessary to solve business-related mathematics problems, review basic mathematics concepts, become proficient in checking and verifying data, and practice critical thinking and decision-making skills. Computerized spreadsheet applications and simulations help students apply math skills to realistic business situations that include accounting, budgets, insurance, investments, marketing, payroll, production, purchasing, sales, taxes, and warehousing. Students also learn to make graphs and tables using mathematical data.

Branch 2

Pre-Algebra
Students learn numeration, statistics, probability, computation, problem-solving and algebraic concepts. Topics include: rational numbers (fractions, decimals, and percents), operations, solving simple equations and inequalities, translating algebraic expressions, and manipulating monomials.

Algebra I
Students explore numeration, algebraic functions, introduction to geometry concepts, and problem-solving. Topics include: linear equations and inequalities, monomials and polynomials, factoring algebraic expressions, two-dimensional graphing, systems of equations, radical expressions, irrational numbers, and quadratic functions.

Geometry
Students learn geometric reasoning and proof, triangles and trigonometry, measurement, and problem-solving. Topics include: mathematical logic, points, lines and planes, parallel lines and planes, congruent triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, right angles, and circles.

Course Descriptions

Algebra II/Trigonometry

Algebra II is an advanced examination of number sense, graphing and equations, special functions, data analysis, and probability. A large portion of this course also covers trigonometry, including basic trig ratios, identities, trig equations, inverse trig functions, and the Laws of Sines/Cosines. Calculator use is explained and expected.

HUMANITIES

Geography: The Study of the World's Places, People & Politics

This course helps students become more geo-literate citizens, more engaged in contemporary global issues, and more multicultural in their viewpoints. Students learn to read, use and analyze maps; identify regions and how they relate to other countries; connect places to people; understand the impacts of change on the environment and sciences. They discover how maps are altered over time due to war, politics, revolutions, and natural phenomena; and they discuss the struggles for political power and control. Finally, they identify climates and biomes and investigate the impacts of technological innovation on transportation, communication, industrialization, and other aspects of human life.

Political Science/Economics

In this course, students learn about the government of the United States and how they fit into that system. They study each part of the government and how citizens are involved in the political process. Next, they focus on economics, analyzing economic systems and principles to better understand how the financial world works. Topics of study include supply and demand, personal finance, and the role of consumers in an economy.

Course Descriptions

SCIENCE

Intro to Scientific Study

In this introductory course, students learn the process of scientific inquiry, such as hypothesizing, graphing, interpreting data, drawing conclusions, and applying scientific concepts. Students study the concepts of motion, force, optics, electricity, radioactivity, properties of matter, compounds and mixtures, elements and bonding, chemical reactions, acid/base, and organics. They also learn comprehension strategies that are specific to reading scientific texts.

BUSINESS LITERACY

One of the biggest factors in a student's decision to drop out of high school stems from their inability to see how their education impacts their daily and future lives -- which is why employment literacy is a key component of our Upper School program. In 9th grade, students have direct instruction in business literacy, as well as the chance to meet various professionals from their community. This helps clarify the educational paths required for each profession, whether it be through community colleges, four-year colleges, or vocational programs. Business literacy skills learned include:

- Goal Development: management skills, such as the ability to independently plan, organize, create and execute; and how to set and recognize strategic goals to achieve success
- Communication: how to communicate in the digital age with future employers and coworkers; how to be a good listener; the impact of body language, eye contact, hand gestures, and tone of voice on the message you are trying to convey; and the difference between personal and professional voice
- Executive Functioning: soft skills, such as time management, organization, eye contact, using a firm handshake, listening, and using empathy to read people and situations, as well as how to adapt accordingly, build trust, and connect more effectively with others

Course Descriptions

- Technology: how to differentiate yourself as an employment candidate using technical skills, such as technical writing (including word processing and emailing), spreadsheeting and data analysis, web browsing, presentation skills, coding and programming and social media savviness
- Collaboration: how to assess and manage your own emotions, as well as build meaningful professional relationships, influence and motivate others, and foster trust and collaboration in the workplace

Grade 9 students shine at The Quaker School at Horsham.

Come see for yourself! Contact us for more information or to schedule your visit.
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