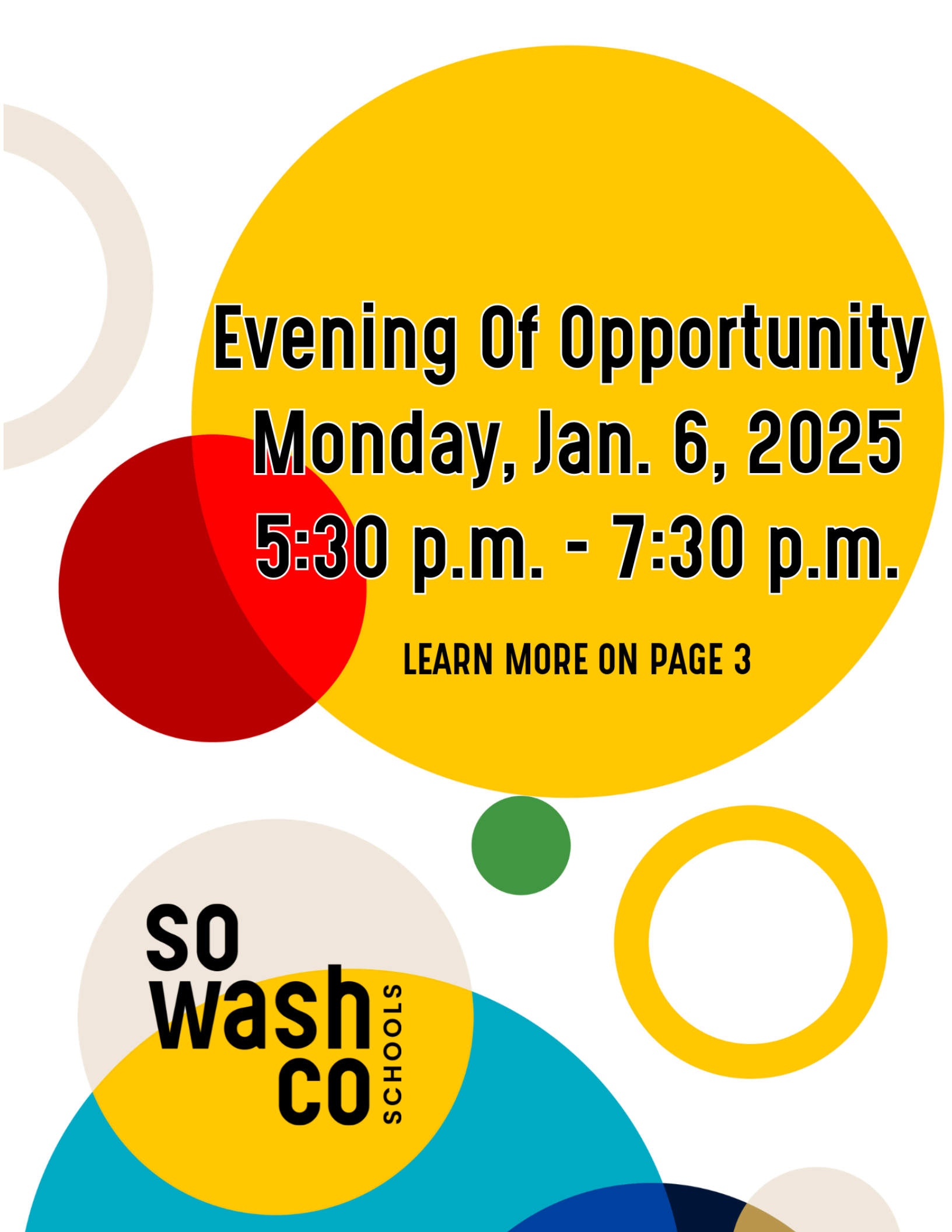


9TH GRADE REGISTRATION MANUAL



Be seen. Be heard. Be bold.





Evening Of Opportunity

Monday, Jan. 6, 2025

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 3

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co** SCHOOLS

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Welcome

Transitioning from middle school to high school is a very exciting time for students and families. To help you plan and prepare, we are providing some initial information for your child’s upcoming 9th-grade year.

High School Counselors will Visit Middle Schools

During December, high school counselors visit each middle school to meet with all eighth-grade students to share information about high school and answer any questions students may have (dates are listed below). This is the first step to onboarding students to high school.

Cottage Grove Middle School	Lake Middle School	Oltman Middle School	Woodbury Middle School
December 4	December 5	December 11	December 12

* SoWashCo Online High School Counselors and Staff will be available at all dates.

High School Opportunity Night

All SoWashCo Schools 8th-grade students and families are invited to attend an evening of opportunity on **Monday, Jan. 6**. All three high schools will be open from **5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** so families and students can visit their high school to talk with teachers and learn more about the school they’ll attend in the fall of 2025.

Each high school’s event will provide students and families with

- Registration assistance
- In-depth question-and-answer opportunities
- Important information about their high school for the 2025-26 school year
- Representatives from SoWashCo Online High School to answer questions about online courses

Registration Process

Registering for 9th-grade is a multi-step process that begins in the Fall of 8th grade and includes:

1. Course Selection: Building Your High School Schedule
2. Registration: Selection of Courses through Infinite Campus
3. Finalized Course Schedule

Below is a detailed account of each stage of registration

1. Course Selection: Building Your High School Schedule

Students and families have many choices when it comes to selecting classes. Each year of high school, the elective options expand allowing students to create their personalized path to career and college readiness.

Course Planning Sheet

This is your chance to brainstorm what your four years of high school courses may look like. Required courses are written in for each school year and listed at the top of the page. Planning ahead is important, but you will only be registering for 9th-grade classes. The four-year course planning sheet can be found in the appendix of this handbook or online at: bit.ly/3sGXPzX



Course Guide

SoWashCo has a comprehensive course guide that has course descriptions of every course offered at our high schools. It is a great resource for understanding what a course will offer and is particularly helpful for selecting your elective courses. The interactive course guide can be found at: bit.ly/47iRVws



Course Card

All students will receive a Course Card that serves as a worksheet to map out their selected courses. Students will select 18 credits and five alternate course choices. Alternate selections are used in the event your first-choice electives do not work in your schedule. If you do not choose any alternates, counselors will choose courses for you. The course requirements for 9th-grade are outlined next.

Daily Schedule

The high school day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:06 pm. Students will have six periods a day. The year is broken into three trimesters with a final grading period at the end of each trimester.

Required Courses

The 9th-grade required courses include:

- Math
 - English
- Science
 - Social Studies
- Health
(you do not register for health it will be embedded in your schedule)

Health

Health is taught every year of high school and is embedded into the schedule. At the end of four years of high school, the requirements for graduation will have been met. You do not register for health. It will be placed in your schedule and credit will be applied upon successful completion.

English

English is a year-long (three trimesters) required course. Students have the choice to take English 9 or Honors English 9. Both options are also available as an online course.

Math

Math is a year-long (three trimesters) required course. Students have many choices in math in 9th-grade. Please refer to the Interactive Course Guide, Math Pathway Chart (found on your high school website), or ask your current math teacher.

8th Grade Course	Most Likely 9th-grade Course
MS Algebra	Intermediate Algebra
Intermediate Algebra	Geometry
Geometry	Algebra 2
Algebra 2	Algebra 3, Statistics, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, AP Pre-Calculus

Science

The required 9th-grade science course is Earth and Space Science, which is a year-long (three trimester) required course. Students have a choice to take Earth and Space or Honors Earth and Space.

Social Studies

The required 9th-grade social studies course is Human Geography. Students have a choice between Human Geography (two trimesters) and AP Human Geography (three trimesters). AP stands for Advanced Placement and is considered a college-level course. For students in Spanish Immersion (Woodbury High School), Human Geography is one of the core Immersion Pathway courses and is a three trimester course.

Additional Required Courses for Graduation

- **Physical Education** – one credit of general physical education is required for graduation. It is recommended that you take this in your 9th-grade year; however, it can be taken in a later grade.
- **Fine Arts** – two credits of fine arts classes are required for graduation. A list of the fine arts courses that meet this requirement can be found in the Course Guide.

Elective Courses

There are a number of elective courses that students can take to begin their personalized career and college pathway.

- World Language is considered an elective and is not required for graduation, however, many four-year colleges require a minimum of two consecutive years of the same World Language.

Online Courses

The district offers online classes through our SoWashCo Online High School. Please read through each point below to determine if online classes in 9th-grade are right for you.

- Students who select online classes will not be assigned a class to report to during the day but will engage in their learning experiences in designated places in the high school. For example, if a student registers for three online classes, they will only be scheduled for three in-person classes at their high school.

- During the periods when students have online classes scheduled, students are allowed to work from home or work at school. If they stay at school, they will be assigned a place to work (i.e. the Media Center or Cafeteria). Please note, there is no “direct” supervision of students if they are working in a space at the school. Students are expected to stay on task and follow all school rules.

While online classes are not for everyone, they may be a great fit for you! These are good things to think about when making a decision:

- Time management: You are able to work on your own. When given a deadline you meet it without any prompting to finish work.
- Communication skills: You are able to communicate effectively in writing.
- Study habits: You complete work on your own without intermittent deadlines to complete reading assignments.
- Self-motivation: You are motivated to complete assignments and are internally driven to do well in school.
- Academic readiness: You have been successful in school.
- Technology savvy: You can navigate your computer with ease and using Schoology, Google and Zoom is not a problem for you.

What will online classes be like?

- They are designed to include activities that give you ownership and choice
- Asynchronous classes that allow you to work on assignments anytime and anywhere
- Teachers will provide a suggested pace to help you plan your workload
- One-on-one and small group support will be provided throughout the course via Zoom or in-person opportunities

What courses are available online?

- There’s a wide variety of course offerings available to 9th-grade students. Please check the course catalog for specific options.

Building your Schedule

- Selecting courses is important! There most likely will not be an opportunity to “switch” courses once the schedule is built.
- What you register for affects what classes we offer at the school. These are the classes you will have next year. Changing classes is not guaranteed.

- All students MUST request 18 courses AND five alternate elective courses.
- Students with missing course requests and/or missing alternate requests will be placed into courses based on availability.

2. Registration: Selection of Courses through Infinite Campus

Students are responsible for selecting their courses through the student management system, Infinite Campus. Students will register at school during the school day, however, students and families may complete the registration at home if they would like.

Online Registration Directions

1. Go to the South Washington County Schools website: www.sowashco.org.
2. Click on Campus Student Portal. This is located under the Student Tab. Click on Student in the upper right-hand corner.
3. You will log in with your network username and password information.
4. Click on "More" in the menu on the left side of the page.
5. Click on "Course Registration" then click on your high school under enrollments.
6. Click on "Add Course"
7. You have two options for entering course requests:
 - a. enter the course number or number in the search bar
 - b. scroll down through all available courses and select
8. You will then find your class and click the + button to add the course.
9. Click on the "Schedule Request" button.
10. Continue to do this until you have entered 18 course requests. Infinite Campus will count them, calling them "units." Students must register for each course individually. For example, when registering for English 9A, B, and C; each of these must be entered, so there will be three entries for English 9.
11. Enter at least five alternate choices online. You will follow the same instructions above, but you will click on the "Alternate Request" button.
12. Check all course requests for accuracy. If you have made a mistake, click on the course name and click on the "Drop this Request" button.
13. Be sure you use the "Sign out" link on the right of the screen when you are finished with registration.

High School Counselors Visit Middle Schools Again

High School Counselors will return to the middle schools in January to answer any last questions and to support student registration online.

3. Finalized Course Schedule

Administrators work all Spring and Summer to build the school's master schedule. It is a complex process with many moving parts. Once the schedule is built teachers are assigned classes and students are placed into their course selections.

In August, schedules are released to students through Infinite Campus.

Counseling Office Support

Your high school counselor will be your best resource for support with your schedule once it is complete. If there is an error in your schedule, visit your high school's counseling website for the online schedule change request form. Please use the online process rather than calling or emailing. If the change is approved, it will take a few days for the counselor to make the changes. Please note, that one change may impact your entire schedule (it is most likely not as simple as a class swap).

Tips and Frequently Asked Questions

Tips from past 9th-graders

- You have nothing to worry about. High school is not so different from middle school.
- Take chances, speak up in class, and ask questions when needed.
- Stay after when you don't understand something.
- You should prepare to study more often and get ready for more homework (make time).
- Learn to advocate for yourself.
- Work hard in 8th grade, then 9th-grade won't be hard.
- Do not procrastinate and be prepared, work hard, and put more effort into school.
- Plan backward from your senior year so you make sure you take all the courses you need throughout all four years.

Frequently Asked Questions

What math class should I take in 9th-grade?

- Please look in the Course Guide for a table with the math sequence. Ask your current math teacher if you are unsure.

What science class should I take in 9th-grade?

- 9th-grade Students will take Earth and Space Science or Honors Earth and Space Science. Please look in the Course Guide for a table with the science sequence options.

What high school classes are year-long commitments?

- Band, Orchestra, Choir, World Languages, Project Lead The Way Engineering classes, and Avid are all year-long classes. Music students will be placed in the appropriate band, choir, or orchestra.

Do I need to take a world language to graduate from high school?

- World language is NOT required to graduate from high school; however, most four-year colleges require that you take a minimum of two years of the same world language while in high school.

Should I take Honors or Advanced Placement (AP) courses?

- You will best prepare yourself for college by taking classes that challenge you and are the most appropriate for you. Honors classes dive deeper into the curriculum and require that a student is a good reader, is hard-working and is committed to being prepared for class each day. Advanced Placement classes are college-level classes and along with honors classes they require reading and studying every night. As you decide whether to take honors and/or AP classes consider taking these challenging courses in subjects that you enjoy and also consider your extra-curricular time commitments.

What are weighted grades?

- Some rigorous class grades are weighted with a 1.2 multiplier. This means that if you earn an A, which is a 4.0 on the Grade Point Average (GPA) scale, the weighted grade is 4.2.

What are “alternate elective courses”?

- Alternate electives are courses that you will be given if a one-trimester course that you have requested is not offered or if you cannot get a course due to a conflict with another course that was chosen. You should choose your alternate electives carefully because students often end up taking one or more of their alternate class choices. You need to list three alternate electives on their course card.

Who can I talk to if I have questions?

- Your middle school counselor may be able to answer your questions. Parents and students may also email or call High School Counselors.

Welcome to high school Class of 2029



Appendix A: Course Planning Worksheet

Freshman Year			
	Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
1	English 9/Honors English 9	English 9/Honors English 9	English 9/Honors English 9
2	Math	Math	Math
3	Science*	Science*	Science*
4	Human Geography/AP Human Geography	Human Geography/AP Human Geography	AP Human Geography
5	General Physical Education (can also take in grades 10-12)		
6			

Sophomore Year			
	Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
1	English 10/Honors English 10	English 10/Honors English 10	English 10/Honors English 10
2	Math	Math	Math
3	Science*	Science*	Science*
4	World History/AP World History	World History/AP World History	World History/AP World History
5			
6			

*Science must include 3 credits of Earth and Space Science, 3 credits of Biology, and 3 credits of either Physics or Chemistry. Please see your counselor for more information.

**Embedded Health is offered at East Ridge, Park and Woodbury High Schools.

***Two credits of Fine Arts are required for graduation.

Junior Year			
	Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
1	English 11/AP English Language and Composition/IB English	English 11/AP English Language and Composition/IB English	English 11/AP English Language and Composition/IB English
2	Math	Math	Math
3	Science*	Science*	Science*
4	U.S. History/AP U.S. History/ IB U.S. History	U.S. History/AP U.S. History/ IB U.S. History	U.S. History/AP U.S. History/ IB U.S. History
5			
6			

Senior Year			
	Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
1	English 12/AP Literature and Composition/IB English/CIS Writing Studio	English 12/AP Literature and Composition/IB English/CIS Writing Studio	English 12/AP Literature and Composition/IB English/CIS Writing Studio
2	U.S. Government and Politics/AP U.S. Government/IB History/CIS Political Science	U.S. Government and Politics/AP U.S. Government/IB History/CIS Political Science	IB History/Economics/ AP Economics (Can take in grade 11)
3			
4			
5			
6			

Appendix B: SoWashCo Profile Of A Graduate

Profile of a Graduate



Graduates of South Washington County Schools (SoWashCo Schools) will have the skills, knowledge and abilities necessary to be successful after high school.



Resilient

- Able to withstand failure and recover quickly to try again.
- Belief in the ability to solve complex problems and build knowledge through hard work and dedication.
- Management of emotions, thoughts and behaviors in different situations.



Lifelong Learner

- Connect existing knowledge to new circumstances.
- Seek out learning to improve yourself, your community and the world.
- Confidence in gaining and sharing knowledge and teaching others.



Communicator

- Establish and maintain healthy and supportive relationships.
- Effectively navigate situations with different social and cultural demands and opportunities.
- Capacity to communicate clearly, listen actively and work collaboratively to problem solve and negotiate conflict.



Socially Conscious

- Express pride, confidence and healthy self-esteem without denying compassion for the value and dignity of other people.
- Focus on seeing people as individuals and work on changing internal stereotypes while taking time to pause and reflect.
- Acknowledge how each culture negotiates its own identity in multiple areas of society.



Critical Thinker

- Think in an organized and rational way to address situations and understand connections between all available facts, ideas and information.
- Approach situations with the understanding that one experience does not define the next, and failure is an opportunity.
- Problem solve through innovative thinking.



COTTAGE GROVE | NEWPORT | ST. PAUL PARK | WOODBURY | AFTON | DENMARK | GREY CLOUD ISLAND

NOTES