

# WILSON HIGH SCHOOL – FRESHMEN ELECTIVE DESCRIPTIONS

**Please take the time to read all course descriptions.** All courses are yearlong. Students should be prepared to rank their top five elective choices during registration. Every effort to place students in their top choices will be made, however master schedule constraints may require a move to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> class options.

***Modern Languages: Native speakers should take the placement test to be placed in the appropriate class***

**CHINESE 1** - Beginning level for Mandarin Chinese language learners with minimal or no Chinese language background. This course will use Pinyin and traditional Chinese characters. By the end of Chinese I, a successful student will be able to proficiently listen to and understand, speak, read, and write about 200 – 250 commonly used Chinese words relating to students' school and personal life.

**KOREAN 1** - Basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing will be practiced. The students will be introduced to Hangul, Korean alphabet system. Students will be able to exchange greetings, give their identity and name a number of familiar objects from their immediate environment including school and home setting. Korean culture including people, customs, and cultural values in everyday life, family structure and food of Korea will be introduced and discussed.

**SPANISH 1** - Students will develop a basic proficiency in the four skills of language learning: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing, with special emphasis on cultural awareness. Students will be able to make connections and comparisons between their native language and Spanish.

**Placement Test Dates: Cedarlane, Mesa Robles,**

***CONSERVATORY of the ARTS – Highlights the Visual and Performing Arts programs of GWHS***

**BEGINNING BAND** - Open to freshman offering a daily musical experience with an emphasis on musicianship and fundamentals for freshmen woodwind, brass & percussion players. The fall semester is spent in preparation of music for football games, parades and field shows competitions. The spring semester is devoted to concert music of a more serious nature. Spring performances include concerts and festivals. Participation in this ensemble involves rehearsals/performances outside the school day, including Saturdays. Participation at these various events requires additional costs. Fundraising activities are made available to assist with cost. **\* Concurrent enrollment in MARCHING BAND PE is mandatory**

**INTRODUCTION TO ART** - Hands on, product oriented class designed to introduce the student to a wide variety of art mediums. Using pencil, oil pastel, colored pencil, tempera paint, water-paint, charcoal, and mono-print, the student explores the Elements and Principles of Art and Design. Art vocabulary, problem solving skills, artistic movements, and master artwork are all introduced.

**MIXED CHORUS** – Designed for students who are interested in singing and learning to improve their singing skills as well as those who may not have the time for the performances involved in the other choir groups. Students will learn the basics of reading music and will develop both their voice and their musical "Ear".

**INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA** - Provide students the opportunity to experience theater, both on stage and off, through reading, performing, viewing and critiquing dramatic literature. Each student will participate in the production of a one-act play that will incorporate the use of sets, costumes and props. Additionally, each student is encouraged to participate in the extra-curricular aspects of the drama department.

**VISUAL COMMERCIAL ART 1** – This is an intro class which develops knowledge, skills and experiences with design principles through the Adobe Creative Suite, digital technology and photographic technique. Students will plan, create, manipulate, output and analyze graphic and photographic images. Through their projects, students will develop problem solving skills, critical thinking and self-reflection while learning to express themselves and communicate ideas. Students will learn the history and current practices of commercial art and how it applies to current careers.

### **Project Lead The Way Pathways**

**AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES** – Students will learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students also explain how computing innovations and computing systems including the internet work, explore the potential impacts of these innovations, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical. **STUDENT MUST BE IN MATH 2 OR HIGHER.**

**PRINCIPLES BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE HONORS** - PBSH is the introductory course of the four year PLTW Biomedical Science program. Students explore concepts of biology and medicine to determine factors that led to the death of a fictional person. Students examine autopsy reports, investigate medical history, and explore medical treatments that might have prolonged the person's life. The activities and projects introduce students to human physiology, basic biology, medicine, and research processes. ***\*This class is taken instead of Biology for Life Science credit***

**PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING HONORS** - Provides classroom and lab experience in engineering technologies. Content involves the engineering design process, and applying math & science to hands-on project based learning projects. Concepts of basic electrical systems, strength of structures and materials, mechanical systems, and other engineering technologies are introduced. Students develop skills in problem solving, research, and design while learning strategies for design process documentation, collaboration, and presentation.

### **Career Technical Education Pathways – All courses meet A-G College Requirements under the Elective G or F Area**

**BUSINESS AND PERSONAL FINANCE** – Students will be introduced and explore the foundations of economics, business operations, and financial planning. Units of instruction will introduce economic systems, global markets, entrepreneurship, management, business finance, and personal finance. Students will also learn about career options and gain knowledge and skills required for success within the industry sector.

**INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA** – See description under Conservatory of the Arts section

**VISUAL COMMERCIAL ART 1** - See description under Conservatory of the Arts section

**AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES** - See description under Project Lead the Way Pathways section

### **PUBLICATIONS– All courses meet A-G College Requirements under the Elective G Area**

**JOURNALISM (Paw Prints Weekly)** - Students will learn about the history, roles, rights, and responsibilities of the modern journalist and will apply this understanding in a variety of journalistic endeavors. Students produce weekly electronic editions, monthly print issues and compete in journalism competitions. **Application and interview will be required, please see Wilson website Publications section (under Academics) for more details.**

**YEARBOOK (The Prowler)** - Students prepare and produce the school yearbook. Students combine the critical thinking, reading and writing skills of print journalism with the artistic, creative and aesthetic skills of the visual and graphic arts. Students learn communication, management, and evaluation skills for individuals and small teams through the production of the school yearbook as well as participation in competitions. **Application and interview will be required, please see Wilson website Publications section (under Academics) for more details.**

### **Additional Electives and Programs**

**ETHNIC STUDIES** – The study of the histories, experiences, cultures, and issues of racial-ethnic groups in the United States. Topics will include similarities and differences of past and present experiences from multiple perspectives, concepts of race, ethnicity, and the interconnected nature of social categorizations. Focus will be on interpersonal communication, cultural competency, and equity. **(Meets A-G College Requirements under the Elective G Area)**

**STUDENT SENATE** – Students interested in Associate Student Body (ASB) are encouraged to participate in Student Senate during the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. While this is NOT a class taken in your freshmen schedule, it will require...