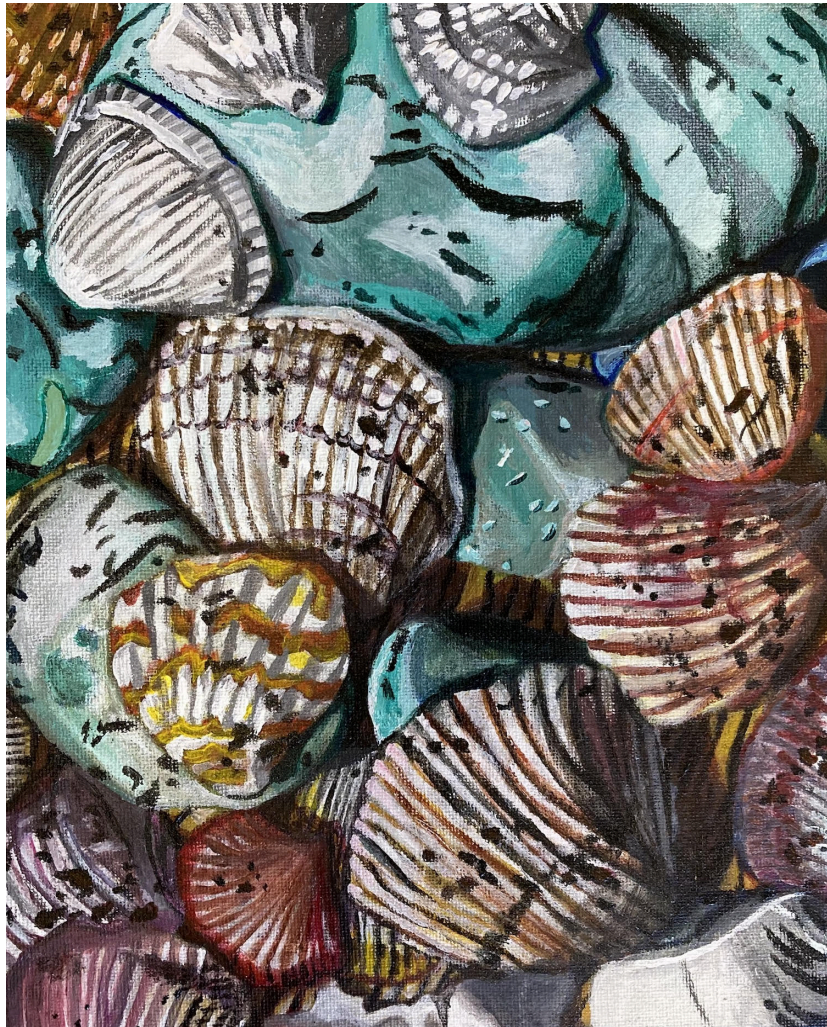


Wachusett Regional High School



by Valeria Chancay
Grade 12

Educational Guide
2025-2026

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May 2025 - May 2026**

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Wachusett Regional High School Educational Guide 2025-2026

This guide is produced in cooperation with Department Heads, the School Counseling Department, and WRHS Administration.

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Dear Students and Parents:

We are proud to share the 2025-2026 Wachusett Regional High School Educational Guide, which showcases the extensive variety of our academic offerings designed to support and challenge every student. Each year, we thoughtfully refine the "Guide" to ensure it aligns with our commitment to providing a rich and diverse educational experience. We are confident that it will serve as a valuable resource for students as they make important decisions that will shape not only their upcoming school year, but their future beyond Wachusett.

Our comprehensive course offerings reflect our dedication to meeting the diverse needs, interests, and aspirations of all our students. From core academic subjects to electives in the arts, technology, and world languages, we offer pathways that foster intellectual curiosity and challenge students to grow in ways that align with their individual goals. Inclusion is at the heart of what we do, and we strive to create an environment where every student, regardless of background or learning style, can find courses that both support and stretch their abilities.

As you explore the guide, we encourage students and their families to thoughtfully consider courses that align with personal interests as well as short- and long-term academic and career goals. We believe that every course and level at Wachusett provides meaningful challenges, and it's important for students to be placed in courses that match their unique abilities and aspirations.

We look forward to working with you to achieve academic excellence and growth at Wachusett Regional High School. Our school counseling team is here to assist you through the course selection process and ensure that every student finds their path to success, grounded in both academic rigor and a commitment to inclusion.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Pratt
Principal

WACHUSETT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

HOLDEN • PAXTON • PRINCETON • RUTLAND • STERLING

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Guide to Academic Selection

Wachusett Regional High School teaches a college preparatory curriculum that prepares all students to pursue the post-graduate experience of their choosing, including education at a four-year institution. Levels ensure that students receive the appropriate support to access the curriculum and experience success during their secondary school career.

Academic Course Levels:

College Prep (CP) Classes at this level form the basic curriculum of WRHS. At the CP level, students gain the critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills that enable them to succeed in post-secondary education. Students taking CP classes will receive the support and reinforcement that will lead to success in a rigorous, challenging environment. Students at the CP level read appropriate texts for understanding and can, with teacher assistance, develop skills for reading for inference and contextual understanding. Students write coherently and meaningfully in a variety of forms, but may need help with organization and with understanding of audience and purpose. They have some command of language and of the grammatical rules of standard academic English. They revise their written work with teacher assistance and expand on it using relevant supporting details. They work somewhat independently on a variety of projects and long-term assignments with teacher support and mini-due dates for assignment deadlines. These students, with clear structure and a good deal of preparation, can present information and participate in class discussions.

College Prep Accelerated (CPA) Students at the CPA level are good readers who read for comprehension, inference, and context, although they may need support from a teacher with the latter two. They display reasonable analytical and critical thinking skills as they work somewhat independently on a variety of assignments and long-term projects. They write with organization and clarity, a clear focus, and a reasonable command of the grammatical rules and standards of academic English. Their positions are generally clear, though supporting detail may be less than optimal. These students are capable presenters of information who, with structure and direction, participate in class discussions. Material at the CPA level is presented at a somewhat quicker pace and students will explore topics to a greater depth and to a greater level of complexity.

Honors (H) Students at the honors level are perceptive, enthusiastic readers. They independently read scholarly and difficult texts for understanding, inference and context. They analyze various texts and combine information from those texts with other information to reach new conclusions and formulate and defend positions. They are self-motivated readers, writers, and revisers, and will work independently on a variety of assignments and long-term projects. They are clear writers with a strong sense of audience and voice, with good command of language and of the grammatical rules and standards of academic English. They are adept at using pertinent detail in their writing to defend well-established positions. They are organized and articulate presenters of information who willingly and consistently participate in class discussion. Students at the honors level follow a college prep curriculum in still greater depth and complexity and at a still faster pace, and are expected to do a great deal of independent work.

Advanced Placement (AP) Students at this level will follow the national AP curricula in preparation for the Advanced Placement subject exams administered in May. These national curricula are modeled on college-level coursework and frequently allow students, when they attend college, to receive college credit or exemption from basic college classes. The College Board, the organization that administers AP, now requires students to commit to taking AP exams in early November. At that time, students will pay a deposit for each exam.

Choosing a Schedule at WRHS

In choosing their schedules, students should balance their immediate needs and interests with their long-term and post-secondary plans.

General Guidelines for Choosing Courses

A good course schedule should:

- satisfy graduation requirements
- support post-secondary plans
- build academic skills
- allow for exploration or enhancement of topics of special interest

You should also:

- consider your interests and abilities
- discuss your course selections with your parents, teachers and school counselor
- be aware of course prerequisites and teacher recommendations
- remember that the in-depth study of a particular subject is valuable
- be sure you have a strong and challenging program in your senior year that prepares you for college or the world of work

Honoring Students' Course Selections

Every effort will be made to honor all of a student's course selections, however, students may not receive all their first choice classes. Students should consider all alternative course selections carefully in the event that a second option is necessary.

Making Schedule Changes

Schedule changes can be requested through an appointment with the school counselor. Schedule changes initiated by the student will be considered only within the first 10 days of the start of the course.

In regards to schedule changes, adjustments can be made for the following reasons:

1. Students are missing a core academic block.
2. Students completed a summer school course and need an adjustment to the next course in the sequence for the next school year.
3. Students are double booked in a block.
4. Students do not have enough classes to fill their entire schedule (i.e. an empty space or more than two full blocks of study halls (juniors and seniors)).
5. Students have an approved Reconsideration Form.
6. Students would like to increase their rigor by removing a study hall and adding in a course, if there is space available in the new course.
7. Students did not get their first choice elective and would like to be moved into that first choice from their alternate, if space is available.

Please note that changes will not be made to adjust teachers, blocks, or study halls, to create a "double study hall" or adjust courses if students' originally requested courses/electives were scheduled, as planned.

A *Request for Reconsideration Form* must be completed for every level change, as well as any change in World Language. Reconsideration Forms should be used when a student disagrees with his/her recommended course level, and would like to move up a level or down a level, circumventing the current WRHS teacher's recommendation. **The student and parent/guardian must complete their sections of the form in full prior to it being shared with the student's current teacher and student's school counselor.** The relevant academic Department Head will review the request based upon prior student performance, space available in the requested class, historical grades, test scores and other factors.

Prerequisite Courses

Students shall not be scheduled for new courses until they have earned a specified number of credits for all prerequisite courses, unless prior approval is received from the principal or his/her designee.

Course Scheduling Timeline

Timeline	Scheduling Event
January	Teachers make course and level recommendations online
February/March	Students meet with school counselors to review teacher recommendations
April/May	Master schedule created, reviewed, revised
August	Student schedules distributed

Course Load

All students must have a full schedule. This means a student must be scheduled into at least **five** classes that **meet every day**. (e.g. P.E. classes meet every other day and cannot count as one of those five classes.)

Freshmen and sophomores are not allowed to be enrolled in a study period. All underclassmen must have full schedules totaling 35 credits.

Wachusett Regional High School Graduation Requirements

Subject	Credit	Years
English	20	4
Mathematics	15	3
Science	15	3
Social Studies	15	3
World Languages (same language)	10	2
*Fine Arts Elective	5	1
Science of Health & Wellness	2.50	2 semesters
Physical Education	7.50	6 semesters
Total Credits Needed to Graduate	110	
Please keep in mind these are minimum WRHS graduation requirements. Colleges and universities often stipulate further requirements.		

*** Fine Arts Courses:** All courses in the Art or Music departments meet the fine arts graduation requirement. In addition, the following courses also meet the Fine Arts requirement: Advanced Manufacturing, Career Centered Engineering, Drama Workshop, Exploring Computer Science I and II, Engineering & Architectural Design, Innovation and Invention, Journalism I, Manufacturing and Construction Technologies, and Website Development.

MCAS Testing: Per the new law that was passed in Massachusetts in December 2024, there is no longer a requirement to pass MCAS exams in the areas of English Language Arts, math, or science to earn a high school diploma. As outlined in the new law, a student must demonstrate *'mastery of a common core of skills, competencies and knowledge...by satisfactorily completing coursework that has been certified by the student's district as showing mastery of the skills, competencies, and knowledge contained in the state academic standards and curriculum frameworks in the areas measured by the MCAS high school tests.'* However, state law still mandates that all students participate in the MCAS exams, as there is no opt-out option available.

MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Awards

The following awards are offered by the State of Massachusetts to students who meet criteria as established by the Department of Education. The criteria for these awards has not changed as a result of the new law referenced above:

- **[Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery:](#)** Students are eligible for this certificate based on advanced and/or proficient scores on their grade 10 MCAS tests, as well as two additional academic achievements including, but not limited to, AP Exam scores, SAT II/Subject Test scores or other academic achievement. The Koplik Award includes a certificate, statewide recognition, and eligibility for tuition waiver at state colleges and universities. Application forms for the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Awards are mailed home in the fall semester of senior year, and are submitted to the DESE via the school counseling department.
- **[John and Abigail Adams Scholarship:](#)** This scholarship is based on students' MCAS scores. In order to be eligible, students must receive an advanced score in Math and ELA, or an advanced score on one and a proficient score on the other. Students must also - in their combined MCAS score - score in the top 25% of WRHS students. No application is required. State reviewers will determine which students will be eligible for this award and notify them in the fall of their senior year in high school.

**As the guidance from the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education has been fluid, the information related to MCAS and the MCAS related Education Awards presented above is accurate as of the date of this publication. Please note that details are subject to change, and any updates or revisions will be communicated as they become available.*

Planning a Four-Year Course of Study

Grade 9 Courses and Options

Subject	Course	Levels
English	English 9	CP, CPA, Honors
Math	Geometry Algebra 1 Fundamentals of Algebra 1	CPA, Honors CP, CPA, Honors CP
Social Studies	World History	CP, CPA, Honors
Science	Freshman Physics Topics in Freshman Physics	CP, CPA, Honors CP
World Languages	Spanish, French, German	CP, CPA, Honors
Elective	*Selecting a fine arts course is recommended	NA
PE/Freshman Seminar	PE 9 and Freshman Seminar	Full Year

Freshman Seminar

Freshman Seminar is designed to help students during their transition to high school – its academic and personal demands – and ensure educational success. This course covers study skills, note taking, test-preparation, research, and reading and writing strategies. Students will learn and practice organizational skills using the daily agenda provided as part of the course. Freshman Seminar also addresses social issues that affect freshmen as they begin to explore high school and post-secondary planning.

Grade 10 Courses and Options

Subject	Course	Levels
English	English 10	CP, CPA, Honors
Math	Geometry Algebra 2 Fundamentals of Geometry	CP, CPA, Honors CPA, Honors CP
Social Studies	AP World History US History I	AP CP, CPA, Honors
Science	Biology Topics in Biology	CP, CPA, Honors CP
World Languages	Spanish, French, German	CP, CPA, Honors
Elective		NA
PE/Health & Wellness	Project Adventure I, a one-semester PE Elective & Science of Health and Wellness	

All Grade 10 students must also pass Science of Health and Wellness.

The Science of Health and Wellness (Grade 10) 2.5 credits

This course meets every other day for a full year. Successful completion of this course is a graduation requirement for all students. The students will study a comprehensive sequence of topics and skills that will help them face the issues and choices they are experiencing now and will confront as adults. Topics include: making healthy choices, basic understanding of the body and how it works, the digestive system, nutrition and food safety, diabetes and obesity, the immune system, the respiratory system, cancer awareness, communicable diseases, HIV/AIDS, human sexuality issues, tolerance, violence and anger management, substance use and abuse, mental health issues and topics, and CPR/first-aid training.

Grade 11 Courses and Options

Subject	Course	Levels
English *Denotes course will not be running in the 2025-2026 school year	English Electives Applied Communications I AP English Language & Composition American Literature American Biography British Literature Creative Writing Contemporary American Culture Contemporary Literature & Film Contemporary Novel & Film Drama Workshop Dystopian Literature Eastern Literature Filmmaking Gothic and Detective Literature Humanities I & II Invitation to Contemporary Poetry Journalism I & II Language & Composition Memoir Through Graphic Novel *Nature Writing New Literature Reading and Writing Illness Shakespeare Short Fiction Stories and Storytelling We the People of American Literature *Women's Voices	CP AP CP, CPA, Honors CP CPA, Honors CPA CPA/Honors CP CPA/Honors Unleveled CP, CPA, Honors CPA/Honors CPA CP, CPA CP, CPA CP/CPA CPA CP, CPA CP, CPA CP/CPA CP, CPA CPA/Honors CPA/Honors CP CP/CPA CPA, Honors CP/CPA
Math	AP Pre-Calculus Pre-Calculus Algebra 2 Fundamentals of Algebra 2	AP CPA, Honors CP, CPA, Honors CP
Social Studies	AP US History US History II	AP CP, CPA, Honors
Science	Chemistry Topics in Junior Physics	CP, CPA, Honors CP
World Languages To be competitive at the college level, a third year of a language is recommended.	Spanish, French, German	CP, CPA, Honors
Elective		NA
PE		One Semester

Grade 12 Courses and Options

Subject	Course	Levels
English *Denotes course will not be running in the 2025-2026 school year	English Electives Applied Communications II AP English Literature & Composition American Literature American Biography British Literature Creative Writing Contemporary American Culture Contemporary Literature & Film Contemporary Novel & Film Drama Workshop Dystopian Literature Eastern Literature Filmmaking Gothic and Detective Literature Humanities I & II Invitation to Contemporary Poetry Journalism I & II Language & Composition Memoir Through Graphic Novel *Nature Writing New Literature Reading and Writing Illness Shakespeare Short Fiction Stories and Storytelling We the People of American Literature *Women's Voices	CP AP CP, CPA, Honors CP CPA, Honors CPA CPA/Honors CP CPA/Honors Unleveled CP, CPA, Honors CPA/Honors CPA CP, CPA CPA/Honors CP CP, CPA CPA/Honors CP/CPA CPA CP, CPA CP, CPA CP/CPA CP, CPA CPA/Honors CPA/Honors CP CP/CPA CPA, Honors CP/CPA
Math	AP Calculus (AB or BC) AP Statistics AP Pre-Calculus Calculus Probability and Statistics Pre-Calculus Advanced Mathematical Concepts	AP AP AP Honors CPA CPA, Honors CP
Social Studies	AP US History AP World History AP Psychology AP US Government & Politics AP Economics AP European History Civics for the 21st Century Concepts in Economics, I & II Concepts in Economics Honors History of Racism in America Human Behavior Psychology I Psychology II Sociology US Government & Politics	AP AP AP AP AP AP CP CP, CPA Honors CPA, Honors CP CP, CPA, Honors CPA, Honors CPA CPA
Science	AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environmental Science AP Physics C: Mechanics Anatomy & Physiology Project Based Learning Physics Environmental Science Environmental Issues Natural History of New England Senior Physics Topics in Chemistry	AP AP AP AP CPA, Honors CP CPA CP CP CPA CP
World Languages	Spanish, French, German	CPA, Honors, AP
PE		One Semester

Wachusett Grading System and Progress Reports

The letter system and numeric equivalents used at Wachusett are as follows:

A+ 97-100	A 93-96	A- 90-92
B+ 87-89	B 83-86	B- 80-82
C+ 77-79	C 73-76	C- 70-72
D+ 67-69	D 63-66	D- 60-62
E 50-59: Failing grade with make-up opportunity through summer school		
F Below 50: Failing grade with no make-up opportunity (must retake course)		

*Note: Independent Study courses are **not** designed for credit recovery.*

Grade Calculations

Final course grades are determined as follows:

Full-Year Classes						Semester Classes			
S1 – 50 percent			S2 – 50 percent			S1	Q1	Q2	Midyear Exam
Q1	Q2	M	Q3	Q4	F	S2	Q3	Q4	Final Exam
20%	20%	10%	20%	20%	10%		40%	40%	20%

Grade Point Average (GPA)

Wachusett calculates a weighted GPA using the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education weighting scale. The BHE scale is used to accurately align GPA with college admissions criteria.

Advanced Placement (AP)	10 points
Honors (H)	5 points
College Prep - Accelerated	0 points
College Prep	0 points

Class Rank

As of the 2015-2016 school year, Wachusett Regional High School does not calculate class rank for students.

Online Access to Grades

Online access provides parents and guardians an on-going review of each child's academic progress. Parents may access Gradebook by clicking on the PowerSchool Log-In button on the home page of the WRHS website: www.wrsd.net/wrhs.

All grades are accurate at the midway period of each quarter, and at the end of each quarter. At the end of each quarter, a warning letter will be sent home advising the parents/guardians of a failure in a subject(s).

Honor Roll at WRHS

Honor Roll is determined at the end of each marking term and is based on the term grades of each marking period. To be eligible for the High Honor Roll, a student must receive grades of A- or better (P in the case of pass/fail courses) in all subjects. To be eligible for the Honor Roll, a student must receive grades of B- or better (P in the case of pass/fail courses) in all subjects.

Criteria for National Honor Society Eligibility

1. Any student considered for selection must have a minimum **unweighted** average of 85 (84.5 will be rounded up) in full credit courses at the time of selection.
2. Selection is based on Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character.
3. Students are selected via a faculty council established for the selection process.
4. Each school and its faculty determine the demonstration of Service, Leadership and Character.

For Juniors – In the fall of each year, an alphabetical list of juniors with an **unweighted** average of 85 or better for freshman and sophomore years is distributed to each faculty member. Each faculty member is asked to comment on any or all of the four criteria listed above. The National Honor Society Selection Committee reviews faculty comments and selects the new members.

For Seniors – The same procedure is followed for seniors who are academically eligible when averaging grades for three years. Students remain members of the National Honor Society as long as they maintain an overall **unweighted** average of 85 or better.

MyCAP Initiative for All Students

My Career and Academic Plan (MyCAP) is a structured, student-centered initiative designed to help students explore, plan, and actively shape their academic and career paths. Through MyCAP, students set goals, develop personalized plans, and identify post-secondary pathways that align with their interests, strengths, and aspirations. Starting early in their high school journey, students participate in activities that build self-awareness, career exploration, and academic planning, guided by advisors and integrated across subject areas. MyCAP provides a framework for students to make informed decisions about their future while developing essential skills such as goal-setting, reflection, and resilience. The program is tailored to be inclusive and supportive of all students, preparing them for college, careers, and meaningful personal growth.

Additional Student Opportunities

- **Dual-Enrollment Programs** – Dual Enrollment offers students the chance to earn both high school and college credits, providing a valuable head start on college-level coursework. Dual Enrollment courses are open to all students; however, there is a selective application process, including a recommendation requirement, due to limited spaces. Course offerings vary by semester, and any class may be designated as Dual Enrollment at the discretion of school administration and our partner institution of higher education (IHE). We reserve the right to adjust, cancel, or run courses as necessary to best serve our students. Our goal is to provide courses that align with our mission and values and to offer these opportunities to a diverse range of students from various backgrounds.
- **Early Graduation** – Even with the current graduation requirements, it is possible to finish the requirements for a diploma from Wachusett in fewer than four years. More detailed information may be obtained from your school counselor.
- **Innovation Pathways Capstone** – The Innovation Pathways Capstone course provides students with an opportunity to apply the skills, knowledge, and experiences gained throughout their pathway coursework in a culminating, real-world project. Working independently or in teams, students will engage in problem-solving, research, and project design, tackling complex, authentic challenges relevant to their pathway area. Each project is developed in collaboration with industry mentors, school faculty, and community partners, ensuring that students' work aligns with current industry standards and practices. The Capstone course emphasizes professional skills, including project management, communication, and critical thinking, while encouraging students to create impactful solutions that reflect their career interests and aspirations. Completion of the Capstone is a requirement for Innovation Pathways designation, and it provides students with the opportunity to present their work to peers, educators, and community stakeholders.

- **Coursework Outside of Wachusett** – Students may take a course(s) at a local college or through an approved correspondence or online school in addition to or in place of some courses at WRHS. Such course work must be pre-approved, in writing, to participate. The cost of these options is the responsibility of the student.
- **Early Dismissal/Late Entry Program** – Seniors may apply to their class administrator for permission to leave school at the conclusion of their last class on those days they have a final-period study hall. Conversely, they may come to school at a later time on those days they have a first-period study. This senior privilege may be revoked for academic or disciplinary reasons.
- **Classroom Learning Assistants** – Classroom Learning Assistants(CLA) are selected via an application process in conjunction with the program coordinator. Teachers may also request specific students based on student availability/study halls. All students must complete the application process and final decisions regarding placements are made by the program coordinator. CLAs help students in classrooms with a variety of tasks that may include note-taking, reviewing steps, clarification, assistance with homework, running small group work, writing assignments, as well as reviewing content covered in an academic class under the direction of the classroom teacher. CLAs may also assist with the organization of notebooks, test preparation, creating study guides, projects, labs, and long-term planning. Students who participate in this program are required to attend a brief training with the coordinator prior to starting and attend the quarterly meetings (during activity period) each quarter to share their experiences and troubleshoot roadblocks with other CLAs.
- **Independent Study** – The independent study option is offered to students who wish to pursue a course **not available** at WRHS or that goes beyond the scope of our established curriculum, and is pursued **outside** the student’s full-time enrollment. The following procedures and guidelines are established to encourage students to seek challenging studies and to maintain the integrity of our educational program.
 - Students must initiate an “*Independent Study Application*” with their school counselor before the conclusion of the first week of the semester. Students must collect all required signatures, including the parent/guardian, school counselor, independent study advisor, Curriculum Specialist/Department Head, and school counseling department head, on the application before the independent study can be scheduled.
 - Students are limited to **one** independent study course per semester.
 - Independent study must involve a minimum of 90 hours of study for 2.5 credits or 180 hours for 5 credits. The independent study will have no level designation, and will be graded on a pass/fail basis.
 - If a student wishes to receive a grade and a level for the independent study, that student must submit a formal proposal, which includes: A rationale for the level selected, student goals, advisor objectives and specific learning activities and evaluation methods. This proposal must be approved by the building principal.
 - Independent study is not designed for credit recovery.
 - Independent study does not count toward a student’s 5 classes needed for full-time enrollment.
- **Internship Program** – The Internship Program at Wachusett Regional High School provides students with an opportunity to gain real-world experience in a professional setting while earning academic credit. This program is designed for motivated juniors and seniors who are interested in exploring potential career paths, developing workplace skills, and building connections with industry professionals. Students participating in the internship program will:
 - Students participating in the internship program will work closely with a local business, organization, or professional in a field of their interest, complete a minimum number of hours (as determined by the program guidelines) in their internship placement, engage in meaningful, hands-on tasks and projects that align with their career goals, and reflect on their experiences

through regular journaling, discussions with their faculty advisor, and a culminating presentation or portfolio.

- The eligibility criteria is as follows: open to juniors and seniors in good academic standing, students must demonstrate responsibility, maturity, and a willingness to learn, and the completion of an application process, which may include a resume, interview, and teacher recommendations.
- The benefits of an internship are to earn elective credit towards graduation, gain valuable insights into career interests and workplace dynamics, and develop skills such as communication, problem-solving, and time management.

The Internship Program is an excellent opportunity for students to bridge the gap between academic learning and practical application, setting them up for success in college, career, and beyond.

Sports Eligibility

A student must be enrolled as a full-time student at WRHS at the time she/he is competing. In addition, the following criteria must also be met:

- To be eligible for participation in **Fall** sports, students must have earned a total of at least 20 credits the previous academic year.
- To be eligible for participation in **Winter** and/or **Spring** sports, students must have **passed at least** four (4) full-credit courses for each of the previous terms

Art Program

Art Prerequisites – Full-Year Entry Level				
Grade		Course	Prerequisites	
9-12		Art Foundations	None	
	CP	Introduction to Digital Art & Design	None	
Art Electives – Semester				
Grade		Course	Prerequisites	
10-12		Ceramics I	C- or better in Art Foundations or Introduction to Digital Art & Design / Graphic Communications I	
	CPA	Ceramics II	B- or better in Ceramics I	
		Drawing I	C- or better in Art Foundations, Introduction to Digital Art & Design / Graphic Communications I, or Engineering & Architectural Design, or concurrent enrollment in Engineering & Architectural Design.	
	CPA	Drawing II	B- or better in Drawing I or Honors Drawing and Painting I	
		Painting I	C- or better in Art Foundations	
	CPA	Painting II	B- or better in Painting I or Honors Drawing and Painting I	
	CPA	*Commercial Art I	C- or better in Art Foundations or Introduction to Digital Art & Design / Graphic Communications I	
		Exploring Fine Art: Visual Arts (SCA: Student Classroom Assistant)	For SCA: B- or better in Art Foundations or Introduction to Digital Art & Design / Graphic Communications I or art teacher recommendation	
		Printmaking	C- or better in Art Foundations or Introduction to Digital Art & Design / Graphic Communications I	
	Sculpture	C- or better in Art Foundations or Introduction to Digital Art & Design / Graphic Communications I		
11-12	CPA	Digital Photography	C- or better in Art Foundations or Introduction to Digital Art & Design / Graphic Communications I	
10-12	CP	Digital Illustration	C- or better in Art Foundations or Introduction to Digital Art & Design / Graphic Communications I	
Art Electives – Full Year				
Grade		Course	Prerequisites	
10-12	CPA	Digital Art & Design II	B- or better in Introduction to Digital Art & Design / Graphic Communications I	
Art Electives – Honors and Advanced Placement				
Grade		Course	Full or Half year	Prerequisites
10-11	H	Honors Drawing and Painting I	Full	A- or better in Introduction to Digital Art & Design / Art Foundations or art teacher recommendation
11	H	Portfolio Prep	Half	B- or better in Drawing II, Painting II, or Honors Drawing and Painting I or art teacher recommendation
12	AP	AP Art and Design/Drawing Portfolio	Full	B or better in Drawing II, Painting II or Portfolio Prep (H), or art teacher recommendation. Students who have not taken Portfolio Prep (H) must schedule a portfolio review with an AP teacher before the end of their junior year.

Full-Year Prerequisites

The Art program offers two different prerequisite courses to all students: Art Foundations and Intro to Digital Art & Design . Both courses introduce students to the elements of art and principles of design through a variety of artistic experiences with a focus on art production. Art Foundation students learn traditional art media while in Intro to Digital Art & Design students learn digital media. Once students successfully complete one of these courses with a C- or above, they are provided with many elective choices to further their education in art and design. Students can enroll in a variety of semester and full-year courses that explore and develop skills in a variety of media. Honors and advanced placement courses provide challenging options for the serious art student. Pathways students can choose a Digital Art & Design Major. (For more information on the Pathways Program, see the Technology section of the WRHS Educational Guide.) All art students are expected to have a serious attitude and personal commitment to their artwork.

Art Foundations (Grades 9-12) 5 credits

Students will explore the elements of art and principles of design through hands-on experiences with art creation and production. Emphasis is placed on introductory painting and drawing focusing on subject, style,

technique and creative problem solving. Students will work both two dimensionally and three dimensionally. This course is a prerequisite for many art electives.

Introduction to Digital Art & Design (CP, Grades 9-12 and WPP) 5 credits

This course is an introduction to digital art and design. Students will learn how to create raster and vector graphics using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. Students will also learn the basics of typography. Projects will include monograms, flag designs, pattern designs, posters, and logos. Students will gain an awareness of how design functions as a form of communication and plays a role in everyday life. This course is a prerequisite for Digital Art & Design II. Preference will be given to students in grades 9-10. This is a required course for students in the Wachusett Pathways Program Digital Art & Design Major, but you do not need to be in the WPP to take this course.

Semester Electives

Ceramics I (Grades 10-12) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: C- or better in Art Foundations or Intro to Digital Art & Design / Graphic Communications I)

This is a concentrated course in the basic techniques of working in clay. This course will concentrate on pinch, slab, and coil-building techniques as well as glazing and firing clay artwork. This course will include an exploration of a range of historical and contemporary ceramics and ceramic artists through presentations and student research. Students are required to keep a sketchbook and to complete homework assignments.

Ceramics II (CPA, Grades 10-12) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: B- or better in Ceramics I)

A more advanced course for students who want to further develop their skills using clay to create artwork. Students will spend a portion of the class learning to use the pottery wheel to create vessels. Advanced hand-building, surface and glaze techniques will be explored throughout the course. Students will gain greater knowledge and experience in studio practices such as kiln firings, recycling clay and glaze testing. Students are required to keep a sketchbook and complete homework assignments.

Commercial Art I (CPA, Grades 10-12) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: C- or better in Art Foundations or Intro to Digital Art & Design/Graphic Communications I)

Students will create artwork that is based on the demand for professional artists in various careers. Each project will be based on the current careers for traditional artists, such as character design, textile and product design, logo design, illustration, and visual representations in text/music/video.

Digital Illustration (CP, Grades 10-12) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: C- or better in Art Foundations or Intro to Digital Art & Design / Graphic Communications I)

This course is designed for students who enjoy creating art on the computer and want to learn more about illustration as a form of visual communication: how to visualize information, develop characters, and tell stories. Students will use both Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop to create artwork and animation. We will also explore combining traditional artmaking methods with digital techniques and students will have access to digital drawing tablets.

Digital Photography (CPA, Grades 11-12) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: C- or better in Art Foundations or Intro to Digital Art & Design / Graphic Communications I)

This course introduces students to digital photography. Students learn camera basics, elements of exposure, as well as creative aspects of photography. Multiple genres of photography are covered, including portrait, and students will spend some periods taking pictures outside as weather permits. Lightroom and Photoshop image correction and enhancement techniques are covered. Students are encouraged to bring their own camera, although a limited number of Canon Rebel digital cameras with manual settings are available for students to share in groups.

Drawing I (Grades 10-12) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: C- or better in Art Foundations, Intro to Digital Art & Design / Graphic Communications I or Engineering & Architectural Design)

Learning to draw means observing the visual properties of forms and the spaces they occupy. This course will focus on a variety of drawing techniques and materials that will reinforce skills needed to improve observational and imaginative design. Students who take this course will not be eligible for Honors Drawing and Painting 1.

Drawing II (CPA, Grades 10-12) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: B- or better in Drawing 1 or Honors Drawing and Painting I)

Through drawing students learn a method of communication that transfers to all other modes of making. This course introduces students to a deeper understanding of drawing and a more personal expressive vision. Concepts focus on observational study, color value, proportion, using references and the human figure.

Exploring Fine Arts: Visual Art (Pass/Fail) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: determined eligibility of students with defined disabilities.)

This is a collaborative class for beginning students and advanced art students. Students will explore the elements of art and principles of design through hands-on experiences with art creation and production. Students will work both two- and three-dimensionally. A few advanced art students will be accepted into the class as classroom learning assistants.

Exploring Fine Arts: Visual Art Student Classroom Assistant (Grades 10-12) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: B- or better in Art Foundations or Intro to Digital Art & Design / Graphic Communications I or art teacher recommendation)

This is a collaborative class for beginning students and advanced art students. Students will explore the elements of art and principles of design through hands-on experiences with art creation and production. Students will work both two- and three-dimensionally. A small number of advanced art students will be accepted into the class as classroom learning assistants. The SCAs will assist students to create art and prepare materials, as well as develop lessons and study educational theory. Students with an interest in art education, special education, art therapy, and similar careers are encouraged to apply through Naviance.

Painting I (Grades 10-12) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: C- or better in Art Foundations)

A course designed to explore the basic techniques of painting. A variety of methods and materials such as acrylic, tempera, & watercolor will be utilized to explore color mixing, color/design, observational painting, art history and master artist styles. Students who take this course will not be eligible to take Honors Drawing and Painting 1.

Painting II (CPA, Grades 11-12) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: B- or better in Painting 1 or Honors Drawing and Painting I)

A more advanced and intensive course for those interested in learning traditional painting methods and techniques. Additional emphasis will be placed on personal investment to explore thematic compositions, portraiture, still-life, and various surface approaches.

Printmaking (Grades 10-12) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: C- or better in Art Foundations or Intro to Digital Art & Design / Graphic Communications I)

This exploratory course uncovers the painterly printmaker in all of us. Students will learn a variety of printmaking processes such as monotype, intaglio, relief, and other experimental methods. This course is an opportunity to combine your interest in drawing and painting with both invented imagery and direct observation, while sustaining the search for a personal, visual direction.

Sculpture (Grades 10-12) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: C- or better in Art Foundations)

This course is an exploration of art in three dimensions. The emphasis of this course is on the development of skills and creativity in the use of materials such as clay, stone, plaster, wood, found objects, and wire. Projects will focus on representational and abstract subject matter, and give students exposure to historical and contemporary artists. This course will broaden and reinforce the students' understanding of the elements of art and principles of design. The important learning processes of creative problem solving and critical thinking will also be emphasized.

Full-Year Electives

Digital Art & Design II (CPA, Grades 10-12 and WPP) 5 credits (Prerequisite: C- or better in Intro to Digital Art & Design/Graphic Communications I)

This is a class for students who want to further develop their design skills. Units will cover publication design (books and magazines), advertising design (print and digital), and information design (maps and websites). Students will explore careers in design and create a resume. In addition, students create posters for WRHS fall and spring theatrical productions. Beginning motion graphics techniques will be introduced. This is a required course for students in the Wachusett Pathways Program Digital Art & Design Major, but students do not need to be in the WPP to take the course.

Honors and AP Electives

Honors Drawing and Painting I (H, Grade 10-11) 5 credits (Prerequisites: A or better in Intro to Digital Art & Design / Art Foundations or art teacher recommendation)

This course covers the curriculum of Drawing I and Painting I at an honors level. It is not open to students who have previously taken Drawing I or Painting I. Honors Drawing and Painting I students are self-motivated, have keen observational drawing skills, and are driven to develop their visual abilities at an accelerated pace. Students will work with a variety of media and techniques and will explore a range of methods and approaches in two dimensions. Students are required to complete homework assignments that include working from observation, visual problem solving and independent study. Sketchbooks will be used for class notes, preliminary drawings, and research.

Portfolio Prep (H, Grade 11) 2.5 credits (Prerequisites: B- in Drawing 2, Painting 2, or Honors Drawing and Painting I, or art teacher recommendation)

This rigorous course challenges the serious art student with experiences in mixed media, drawing, and painting. This course will help students develop their own portfolio of artworks or prepare them for the Advanced Placement Art and Design/Drawing Portfolio. Students will explore thematic approaches and personal methods of working. Portfolio Prep (H) runs at an accelerated pace and requires a series of works to be completed outside of class, in addition to keeping a sketchbook throughout the semester.

AP Art and Design/Drawing Portfolio (AP, Grade 12 only) 5 credits (Prerequisites: B or better in Drawing 2, Painting 2 or Portfolio Prep (H) or art teacher recommendation. Students who have not taken Portfolio Prep (H) must schedule a portfolio review with an AP teacher before the end of their junior year.)

In this full-year course, students will design a portfolio of college level work and submit it for evaluation to the College Board. Students will be required to produce:

- Three summer homework assignments completed by the first day of class.
- Selected Works - Five pieces that are matted and mailed to the AP Board.
- Sustained Investigation - Fifteen portfolio pieces that will be photographed, edited and uploaded to the Advanced Placement Exam via the Internet.

The exam contains two sections. The Sustained Investigation section requires you to conduct an inquiry-guided investigation through practice, experimentation and revision. Students create a portfolio of work to demonstrate inquiry through art and design and development of materials, processes, and ideas over the course of a year. Portfolios include works of art and design, process documentation, and written information about the work presented. In May, students submit portfolios for evaluation based on specific criteria, which include skillful synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas and sustained investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision guided by questions. (AP College Board, 2019)

Independent Studies

Studio Art Independent Study (Grade 10-12)** 2.5 or 5 credits

This course provides students the opportunity to explore the studio arts independently, designing a personal approach to proficiency of a specific medium or a combination of mediums under the guidance of a WRHS art teacher. Specific mediums of study may include ceramics, painting, drawing, sculpture and design. Plan development and student research will drive this student through a deeper understanding of concept, tools and techniques. Regular meetings with a teacher/advisor to offer feedback and instruction will be scheduled to assist students in skill refinement and goal achievement. Coordination of such independent studies should be arranged with an art department educator. Students interested must complete the required application through their school counselor.

Digital Art Independent Study (Grades 10-12, WPP)** 2.5 or 5 credits

This course offers students the opportunity to engage in a self-directed exploration of digital arts under the guidance of a WRHS teacher mentor. Students will define their area of focus, which may include topics such as digital illustration, 3D modeling, animation, video production, graphic design, interactive media, or any other digital art form. Through independent research, practice, and project development, students will deepen their understanding of digital tools, techniques, and creative processes. Regular meetings with the teacher mentor will provide feedback and support to help students refine their skills and achieve their artistic goals. Students interested must complete the required application through their school counselor.

**Please see the description of Independent Study courses as printed in the full WRHS Educational Guide.

English Program

Course	Level	Prerequisites	
		Course/Grade	Teacher Recommendation
English 9	Honors	Middle School English Teacher/High School Department Head Recommendation	Required
	CPA	Middle School English Teacher/High School Department Head Recommendation	Required
	CP	Middle School English Teacher/High School Department Head Recommendation	Required
Course	Level	Prerequisites	
		Course/Grade	Teacher Recommendation
English 10	Honors	C+ or better English 9 Honors OR A- or better in English 9 CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CPA	C- or better in English 9 CPA OR A- or better in English 9 CP	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CP	Successful completion of English 9 CP	Or Teacher Recommendation
Course	Level	Prerequisites	
		Course/Grade minimum	Teacher Recommendation
Applied Com. 1 – Grade 11	CP	Must be enrolled in the Wachusett Pathways Program, Earn a D- or better in English 10 CP	Required
Applied Com. 2 – Grade 12	CP	Must be enrolled in Wachusett Pathways Program AND Successful completion of Applied Communications I	Or Teacher Recommendation
Course	Semester	Prerequisites	
Grade 11-12 Honors	American Literature Honors British Literature Honors Contemporary American Culture Honors Contemporary Novel & Film Honors Drama Workshop (unleveled) Dystopian Literature H Eastern Literature Honors Humanities I Honors Humanities II Honors Reading & Writing Illness Honors Shakespeare Honors We the People of American Lit. Honors	C- or better in English 10 Honors OR C- or better in Honors English Elective in junior or senior year OR Successful completion of AP English Language and Composition OR Teacher Recommendation	
	Grade 11 - 12 CPA *Denotes course will not be running in the 2025-2026 school year	American Literature CPA British Literature CPA Contemporary American Culture CPA Contemporary Novel & Film CPA Creative Writing CPA Drama Workshop Grades 11 & 12 (unleveled) Dystopian Literature CPA Eastern Literature CPA Filmmaking CPA Gothic & Detective Literature CPA Humanities I CPA Humanities II CPA Invitation to Contemporary Poetry CPA Journalism I CPA Grades 11 & 12 Journalism II CPA Language and Composition CPA Memoir Through Graphic Novel CPA *Nature Writing CPA New Literature CPA Reading & Writing Illness CPA Shakespeare CPA Stories & Storytelling CPA We the People of American Lit. CPA *Women's Voices CPA	C- or better in English 10 CPA OR C- or better in CPA English Elective in junior or senior year OR Successful completion of English 10 H OR Successful completion of Honors English elective junior or senior year OR Successful completion of AP English Language & Composition OR Teacher Recommendation

Course	Semester	Prerequisites	
Grade 11 - 12 CP *Denotes course will not be running in the 2025-2026 school year	American Biography CP American Literature CP Contemporary Literature & Film CP Drama Workshop Grades 11 & 12 (unleveled) Dystopian Literature CP Gothic & Detective Literature CP Invitation to Contemporary Poetry CP Language & Composition CP Memoir Through Graphic Novel CP *Nature Writing CP New Literature CP Short Fiction CP Stories & Storytelling CP *Women's Voices CP	Successful of English 10 CP OR Successful completion of CP English Elective in junior or senior year OR Teacher Recommendation	
Grade	Course, level	Prerequisites	
		Grade	Teacher Recommendation
Grade 11	AP English Language and Composition	B or better in English 10 Honors or English 10 CPA	Required
Grade 12	AP English Literature and Composition	B or better in AP English Language and Composition OR B or better in Honors or CPA English Elective	Required
Grade 11, 12	English 11 CPA/CP	E or F in English 10 CPA or English 10 CP	Or Teacher Recommendation

WRHS Writing Standard

WRHS students must meet the requirements of the WRHS Writing Standard in both Grade 9 and Grade 10. **Achieving all parts of the standard is a graduation requirement.** Students who fail any part of the standard must take and pass Language and Composition in Grade 11 or 12 to meet the requirements of the WRHS Writing Standard.

The WRSD Writing Standard requires students to demonstrate competency in grades 9 and 10. To demonstrate competency, a student must:

1. Write at least one literary analysis in English 9 and two literary analyses in English 10.
2. Conduct a research project.
3. Demonstrate acceptable written work on a variety of writing assignments.
4. Score 472 or higher on 10th-grade MCAS English Language Arts test.

A student who fails in any of these four requirements has not attained the **WRHS Writing Standard** and therefore must take and pass Language and Composition in his/her junior or senior year. Students who pass English 11 do not have to take Language and Composition.

English Department Policies

1. English 9 and 10 Failures - Grade 9 and Grade 10 English emphasize the core of the WRHS curriculum in developing students' skills in reading, writing, and speaking. Unless a student is recommended by the Curriculum Specialist, school counselor, and school counseling department head to repeat English 9, students who fail English 9 will be placed in English 10. All students who have failed English 9 will take Language and Composition in Grade 11. Students who fail English 10 will take the Upper School elective English 11 in Grade 11. **It should be noted that students who make up either English 9 or English 10 in summer school will be required to take Language and Composition.**

2. Credit Deficiency - A student who is credit deficient may, during his/her junior or senior year, double up in English as necessary to fulfill his/her graduation requirements; however, no student will be allowed to enroll in more than two English courses during any semester or in more than three during a school year. Placement in the additional English courses depends on space availability and is not guaranteed.

3. Make-up - School-wide make-up provisions apply to all course work.

4. Policies Governing English Courses Offered in Grades 11 and 12

All courses stress writing: a literary analysis and many shorter assignments are required each semester. In addition, major creative assignments and/or research projects are required in most courses. Some electives are primarily writing courses; for example, Creative Writing, Journalism, and Language and Composition.

- **Required courses for graduation:** Before graduating, every student must take and pass American Literature noted by the symbol # before the course title in this guide and at least one other English literature class noted by the symbol @ before the course title in this guide. Students may fulfill their American Literature requirement by completing both years of the Applied Communications sequence or AP English Language and Composition. A student fulfills the remainder of his/her English requirement by taking any other English electives to achieve at least 20 English credits.
- **Elective and full year courses:** Most English courses are one-semester elective courses; several are full-year courses.
- **Minimum number of courses:** Students must take a minimum of two semester courses or one full-year course (5 credits) in each year of high school. Students must take a minimum of one course (2.5 credits) in each semester during each of these years.
- **Space Availability:** On a space-available basis and with the teacher's approval, students may take a second English course in any one semester, either for enrichment or to make up an English credit deficiency. A space-available determination will be made the first week of each semester.
- **Credits:** Credits in excess of five earned during any one of these years count toward graduation.
- **Enrollment:** No student will be permitted to enroll in more than two English courses during any semester and in no more than three in an academic year. If a senior needs additional English credits beyond 7.5 credits that year in order to graduate, he/she can take an additional English course. In rare cases, an independent study may be taken for English credit, but only with the express permission of the English Department Head and administration.
- **Alternating-year courses:** Listed here are all elective courses in the English curriculum, but not every title is offered every year. Some courses are available only in alternating years, as indicated.
- **Combining levels:** Occasionally, because of staffing and scheduling constraints, academic levels may be combined for some English courses. In these cases students who are registered at the higher level must expect to do additional work and to be graded by more rigorous standards.
- **Limiting enrollments:** Staffing and scheduling constraints restrict the number of sections in some traditionally popular elective courses. Both juniors and seniors should make alternative course selections with this in mind, realizing that they will be placed, whenever possible, in one of their alternate choices if they cannot be scheduled into their first choice elective. Seniors will receive preference in these cases.

English Department Description of Levels

Honors: Students at the honors level are perceptive, enthusiastic readers. They independently read scholarly and difficult texts for understanding, inference and context. They analyze various texts and combine information from those texts with other information to reach new conclusions and formulate and defend positions. They are self-motivated readers, writers, and revisers; and will work independently on a variety of assignments and long-term projects. They are clear writers with a strong sense of audience and voice and with good command of language and of the grammatical rules and conventions of standard academic English. They are adept at using pertinent detail in their writing to defend well-established positions.

College Prep – Accelerated: Students at the CPA level are good readers who read for comprehension, inference, and context, although they may need support from a teacher with the latter two. They display reasonable analytical and critical thinking skills as they work somewhat independently on a variety of assignments and long-term projects. They write with organization and clarity, a clear focus, and a reasonable command of the grammatical rules and conventions of standard academic English. Their positions are generally clear, though supporting details may be less than optimal.

College Prep: Students at the CP level read appropriate texts for understanding and can, with teacher assistance, develop skills for reading for inference and contextual understanding. Students write coherently and meaningfully in a variety of forms, but may need help with organization and with understanding of audience and purpose. They have some command of language and of the grammatical rules of conventions of standard academic English. With teacher assistance, they revise their written work and can expand on it using relevant supporting details. They work somewhat independently on a variety of projects and long-term assignments with teacher support and with frequent smaller assignment deadlines.

Lower School Program and Placement Criteria

English 9 (H, CPA, CP) 5 credits (Full year)

This course focuses on the study of literary genres so students master the governing characteristics of each genre. Areas of emphasis include: literary terms; literary appreciation and reading comprehension; writing process strategies for compositions, research papers, literary analyses, and creative writings; critical thinking skills; vocabulary development; library skills; grammar, mechanics and usage; MCAS preparation.

English 10 (H, CPA, CP) 5 credits (Full Year)

Students in English 10 continue and expand their study of genres and examine common themes. The study broadens, however, to take into greater account author and purpose, as well as style and voice. Students will likely compare works by different authors to determine how an author reveals his/her style as the students work to develop their own style and voices as writers. Other major emphases include MCAS preparation; grammar, mechanics, and usage; literary elements; the writing process: composition, research projects, literary analysis, creative writing; critical thinking; and vocabulary development.

English 9/10 5 credits

This course is a basic survey of fundamental English skills including grammar, spelling, vocabulary, reading and writing. Students will read appropriate texts for understanding and, with teacher assistance, develop skills for reading for inference and contextual understanding. Students enrolled in this class will receive small group and individualized instruction at their appropriate ability level as determined by formal and informal assessments. Limited class size. Note to students who plan to play sports in college: The NCAA has not approved this class as a core course requirement.

Choosing English Electives

Below are suggestions of two-year English course sequences. Students may mix classes to match their own interests, but the key is to approach scheduling with a plan – an English class for each semester of school. For juniors, that means choosing a fall choice followed by a spring choice for their senior year. For sophomores, it means thinking about a two-year plan that allows them to take full advantage of all that Wachusett offers.

Student Interests	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Traditional 1	Language & Comp.	American Lit	Shakespeare	British Literature
Traditional 2	American Lit.	Language & Comp.	Humanities I	British Literature
Western Culture	Humanities I	Humanities II	American Lit.	British Literature
Creative	Inv. to Cont. Poetry	Creative Writing	American Lit.	Filmmaking
Performance	Drama Workshop	American Lit.	Shakespeare	Stories/Storytelling
Contemporary 1	New Literature	Short Fiction	American Lit.	Cont. American Culture
Contemporary 2	Inv. to Cont. Poetry	American Lit.	Contemporary Novel & Film	Reading & Writing Illness
Media Emphasis	American Lit.	Filmmaking	Journalism I	Journalism II
Other Cultures	Eastern Literature	Women's Voices	We the People of American Literature	American Lit.
Eclectic	Eastern Literature	American Literature	We the People of American Literature	Stories/Storytelling.
Greats and Ghouls	Language & Comp.	American Lit.	American Biography	Gothic Literature
Adv. Placement	AP Language and Composition (full year)		AP Literature and Composition (full year)	
Pathways Program	Applied Communications I (full year)		Applied Communications II (full year)	

These scenarios are only guides. After junior year, a student may decide on a different track in choosing Grade 12 English electives. But by starting with a plan, the student is more likely to make the most of his experience.

Signifies a course that fulfills an American Literature requirement.

@ Signifies a course that fulfills the second Literature requirement.

Upper School Program Full-Year Courses

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition (AP; Grade 11) 5 credits

This course is designed around the freshman composition model used at most universities. The goal of the course is to further students' understanding and appreciation of the English language, particularly language used to argue and persuade. The students will study the logic of language, increase vocabulary, and read writing that exemplifies precision and rhetorical force. The course focuses largely on non-fiction but will also cover major texts of American literature and fulfills the WRHS American Literature requirement. We will read pieces that show complexity of thought, construction and argumentation; study the art of persuasion from Aristotle to the present; refine expository writing skills, using the modes of narration, description, analysis, and argument; broaden vocabulary; and review grammatical structures. Students will be expected to read and write every day and to contribute actively to class discussions. Students will complete a summer reading and writing assignment. Students who take this course are expected to take the AP examination in May.

@ **Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition (AP; Grade 12)** 5 credits

This full-year college-level course helps students become discerning readers of meaningful literature written at various times in various cultures, with an emphasis on literature originally written in English. By becoming attentive to the variations of language, voice, and style in literature, students develop independence of insight and an increased sensitivity to the power of literature. Through reference to patterns and details in each text, students are expected to justify their interpretations in frequent writing activities and discussions or presentations. Thus, the course prepares students to take the AP Literature and Composition exam. Although analytic writing is a vital component of this course, a confident writing style is also fostered through a variety of other expressive forms. A summer assignment is an integral part of AP English; students must read several works before returning to school in September. Students who take this course are expected to take the AP examination in May.

Applied Communications I (CP; Grade 11) 5 credits

This yearlong course enables students to gain many of the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills necessary for career success. Learning activities are closely related to the work world and are connected to students' career goals or career majors as part of the Wachusett Pathways Program. All forms of communication skills are emphasized in this course. Students may not enter this course after Oct. 1.

(Note: Passing Applied Communications I fulfills a student's literature course requirement, but not the American Literature requirement.)

Applied Communications II (CP; Grade 12) 5 credits

An extension of Applied Communication I, this yearlong course enables students to apply and relate many of the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills necessary for success in a career path or their internships as part of Wachusett's Pathways Program. Integrated into the curriculum is a study of American Literature. Students may not enter this course after Oct. 1. (Note: Passing Applied Communications I & II, fulfills a student's American Literature requirement.)

English 11 (CPA/CP; Grades 11, 12) 5 credits

This yearlong remediation course is designed for students who did not pass English 9 or English 10. This class will employ intensive reading and writing strategies and will use a variety of readings to build on students' developing skills. Students in this class are responsible for meeting all the requirements of the WRHS Writing Standard. The class will fulfill the Language and Composition requirement for students who failed the writing standard in Grade 9 or 10.

English 11/12 5 credits

This course is a basic survey of fundamental English skills including grammar, spelling, vocabulary, reading and writing. Students will read appropriate texts for understanding and, with teacher assistance, develop skills for reading for inference and contextual understanding. Students enrolled in this class will receive small group and individualized instruction at their appropriate ability level as determined by formal and informal assessments. Note to students who plan to play sports in college: The NCAA has not approved this class as a core course requirement.

Courses Offered Both Semester 1 & 2

American Literature (H, CPA, CP; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

This required course explores the literature of the United States, as well as the historical and cultural influences on that literature. Students discover and discuss the major literary movements from which the literature of the United States has emerged. All levels develop writing and critical reading skills along with media and oral presentation skills. Students will write at least one literary analysis.

@ Contemporary Novel & Film (H, CPA; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

In this course, students will study novels and film through discussion, writing, and close examination. This course is designed to sharpen students' critical thinking and analytical skills by examining novels and films that complement those novels thematically, stylistically, culturally and/or through other narrative devices. Students will read four to six novels in this course and write several analytical pieces, including at least one literary analysis.

Journalism I (CPA; Grades 9-12) 2.5 credits

This course provides an in-depth study of contemporary journalism in theory and practice, especially the print media. The course emphasizes specialized writing and examines the freedom and responsibility of the press. For "cub" reporters and the more experienced journalists, this course offers students the opportunity to be part of the staff that produces Wachusett's award-winning newspaper, *The Echo*. Students in grades 9 and 10 may only take this class as one of their Fine Arts Electives. Students in grades 11 and 12 may choose this class as one of their English classes OR as a Fine Arts Elective, but not both. (Note: Depending on enrollment, second semester Journalism I may be combined with Journalism II.)

Language and Composition (CP, CPA; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

This course emphasizes the mechanics, style, and structure of effective expository writing. Special emphasis is placed on the paragraph – the basic unit of all composition. Students will practice the different types of expository writing – persuasive, descriptive, narrative – to help them strengthen the skills needed in academic writing. The class will also include a research component; readings will focus on shorter, nonfiction pieces.

@Reading and Writing Illness (H/CPA; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

This course unites elements of health and medicine with fundamental aspects of what it means to be human: feeling pain and empathy, considering mortality, navigating social conventions and the loss of them. Through discussions, diverse texts, and a variety of writing and projects, students will engage texts with three aims: 1) consider how literary conventions interact with science and medicine 2) investigate and explore the forms and techniques authors employ to construct and depict illness 3) consider how we as readers read and react to these texts and how these works influence our understanding of illness, ourselves, and those around us. Students will write at least one literary analysis essay.

#@ We the People of American Literature (H/CPA; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

A study of literature written by a myriad of voices not typically included in the American literature canon, this course will examine ways in which American writers wrestle with the idea of culture, protest, and inclusion as the country continues to define itself in light of the American creed. Students will write at least one literary analysis.

Semester 1 Courses

@ American Biography (CP; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

Students in this course study biographies, autobiographies and journals of significant Americans. Students will examine stories from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds and from different periods in America's history, and they will read at least one full-length biography. Students will write biographical and autobiographical pieces, along with at least one literary analysis.

@ Dystopian Literature (CPA, CP; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

While Dystopia has become a popular genre in recent years, authors have been warning readers of bleak futures long before *The Hunger Games*. Students in this course will study a variety of Dystopian works (novels, short stories and poetry) from Ray Bradbury and George Orwell to more contemporary authors in order to examine how Dystopian literature doesn't just depict a horrible future but also an unpleasant present. Students will write at least one literary analysis.

@ Eastern Literature (H, CPA; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

This course offers an introductory study of the culture, philosophy, and literature of the Middle East, India, China and Japan. Students will engage in research and close examination of important philosophical, literary, and sacred texts and of culture, and art in order to gain a greater understanding of Eastern thought. Students will write at least one literary analysis.

@ Humanities I (H, CPA; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

From Ancient Greece and its dramas of passion, pride, and heroic sacrifice, to Medieval romances about knights, damsels, and the ways of chivalry, Humanities I offers interested students a look at age-old tragedy, verse, and narrative prose. Students will explore, in addition to some art and music, essential works of world literature such as Sophocles's *Oedipus the King* and Dante's *Inferno*, to learn about the ways humans tried to make sense of themselves, their world, and how the two are related. Students will write at least one literary analysis.

@ Memoir Through Graphic Novel: A Life in Pictures (CPA, CP; Grades 11, 12) 2.5½ credits

Memoir through Graphic Novel will discuss themes of identity, race, and cultural background as influenced and crafted by landscape and adversity. Students will read a variety of graphic novel memoirs that tackle social and cultural norms and prejudices as well as one's search for identity. Units regarding identity, health and wellness, family and community, and history will be explored. In this class students will not only learn how to read a graphic novel, they will learn to write critical analyses of the art and literature they have read as well as synthesize what they are learning through the analysis into their own creation of memoir in graphic arts form. Students will write at least one literary analysis essay.

@ The New Literature (CPA, CP; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

In this course, students study contemporary writing, both fiction and nonfiction, reflecting the voices of today's writers. The course will begin with minimalist work from the 1970s by such writers as Raymond Carver, Ann Beattie, and Tim O'Brien. Students will also study contemporary genres, such as narratives in verse, graphic novels, stories with multiple narrators, and stories using multimedia. Contemporary themes and styles by such authors as Jennifer Egan, Jason Reynolds, Jarret Krosoczka, and Elizabeth Acevedo will also be included. Students will write at least one literary analysis essay.

@ Shakespeare (H, CPA; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

This course presents a study of Elizabethan times and selected works of William Shakespeare. This course provides students with close textual readings of the Bard's poetry and dramas. Dramatizations, criticisms and research projects complement the texts. Students will write at least one literary analysis.

Semester 2 Courses

@ British Literature (H, CPA; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

This course surveys literature from early Anglo-Saxon times to the present and emphasizes an appreciation of the literary heritage of the British Isles. Students scrutinize the literature in order to think, to write, and to speak meaningfully about diverse topics reflecting the semester's study. Students will write at least one literary analysis.

@ Contemporary American Culture (H, CPA; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

This course examines recent trends in American culture. History, economics, sociology, and political science are joined with the study of contemporary literature, art, and music in order to give students a better understanding of the world in which they live.

@ Contemporary Literature & Film (CP; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

Students in this course study film and literature through discussion, writing, and close examination. This course is designed to sharpen students' critical thinking and analytical skills by examining film and literature for common themes, characterization, storytelling and symbolism. Works by important writers and filmmakers will be included, and students will write at least one literary analysis.

Creative Writing (CPA; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

This course takes a workshop approach to writing for both freedom and discipline in all types of original expression. Using a process writing approach, students experiment with writing in a variety of genres including memoir, fiction and poetry. The course includes a study of critically acclaimed writings.

Drama Workshop (Grades 9-12) 2.5 credits

This workshop course builds performance skills and self-confidence through improvisation, theater games, and monologue work. The course also encourages the development of a critical eye for judging acting performance and teaches students how to write a critical play review. Attending live theatrical performances is a required part of the curriculum. Note to students who plan to play sports in college: The NCAA has not approved this class as a core course requirement. Students in grades 9 and 10 may only take this class as one of their Fine Arts Electives. Students in grades 11 and 12 may choose this class as one of their English classes OR as a Fine Arts Elective, but not both.

@ Dystopian Literature (H; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

While Dystopia has become a popular genre in recent years, authors have been warning readers of bleak futures long before *The Hunger Games*. Students in this course will study a variety of Dystopian works (novels, short stories and poetry) from Ray Bradbury and George Orwell to more contemporary authors in order to examine how Dystopian literature doesn't just depict a horrible future but also an unpleasant present. Students will write at least one literary analysis.

Filmmaking (CPA; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

This course takes a workshop approach to narrative filmmaking, in which students complete several specific movie projects in "Production Company" groups, utilizing analog and digital video cameras and editing equipment and participating actively in all the basic processes of filmmaking. Students will learn some film history and terminology, as well as hone their critical skills through oral and written analysis of both student and professional films. Equipment is available for student use if necessary. Note to students who plan to play sports in college: The NCAA has not approved this class as a core course requirement.

@ Gothic and Detective Literature (CPA, CP; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

Students in this course survey many of the genres of mystery fiction including detective fiction, science fiction, the supernatural, and the occult. Students will read works by authors such as Ray Bradbury, Stephen King, H.P. Lovecraft, and Edgar Allan Poe, along with the stories of Sherlock Holmes. Through this increasingly popular body of literature, students will reflect on 20th-century attitudes, as well as on traditional literary themes. The

selected readings allow students to explore and enjoy these varied literary forms. The course requires some creative and critical writing, as well as research. Students will write at least one literary analysis.

@ Humanities II (H, CPA; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

From the groundbreaking advances made by Renaissance artists such as DaVinci, through the prideful attempt of Frankenstein to create another human being, to the nightmarish modern vision of Kafka, Humanities II offers interested students a look at modern humans' attempts to make sense of themselves, their world, and how the two are related. Required works include Camus's *The Plague*, about a deadly epidemic, and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Students will not only explore music, philosophical texts, and the history of painting from the Renaissance to the modern era, but their own creativity as well. Students will write at least one literary analysis.

Journalism II (CPA; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

This course presents an expanded, in-depth study of the principles of journalism. This course requires students to maintain a comprehensive writing portfolio, read articles and books, such as *All the President's Men*, and write for the school newspaper, *The Echo*. (Note: Depending on enrollment, Journalism I and II may be combined.) Note to students who plan to play sports in college: The NCAA has not approved this class as a core course requirement.

@ Short Fiction (CP; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits

This course presents a survey of short stories and novellas, mainly from the twentieth century. This course fosters an appreciation of the narrative art form without the necessity of examining lengthy works, and reinforces reading and writing skills used in the analysis of fiction. Students will write at least one literary analysis.

Signifies a course that fulfills an American Literature requirement.

@ **Signifies a course that fulfills the second Literature requirement.**

Alternating Year Courses Semester 1

@ An Invitation to Contemporary Poetry (CPA, CP; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits (Offered 2025-2026; Not offered 2026-2027)

This course is modeled after former US Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky's "Favorite Poem Project." The Project asked people to share their favorite poem and comment on their personal connection to the poem. Students will study poems thematically and survey the major movements, poets, and poems of the twentieth and twenty-first century. They will read, discuss, and write about these significant poets and poems and discover how poetry reflects social, political and psychological ideas. Students will write at least one literary analysis. Most importantly, students will see why poetry matters and how it is a passionate part of the life of everyday people, not just teachers, scholars and poets.

@ Nature Writing (CPA, CP; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits (Not offered 2025-2026; Offered 2026-2027)

This course presents the works of prominent nature writers and encourages students to develop their own nature writing skills and increase their awareness of the natural world. Most of the literature is nonfiction. Required assignments include extensive journal writing on a variety of topics, including observations of the natural world and discussions of important and current environmental issues, and a series of formal nature essays. Students will write at least one literary analysis.

Alternating Year Courses Semester 2

@ Stories and Storytelling (CPA, CP; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits (Offered 2025-2026; Not offered 2026-2027)

Students in this course examine stories of the oral tradition and storytelling from the earliest days of mankind through to the present. Students read folktales and legends from ancient civilizations, medieval period, the Old West, as well as contemporary retellings of those stories and urban legends from our present day. Students practice the art of oral storytelling and complete a special project, collecting and examining folklore within their own culture. Students will write at least one literary analysis.

@ Women's Voices (CPA, CP; Grades 11, 12) 2.5 credits (Not offered 2025-2026; Offered 2026-2027)

Students will explore the influential voices of women through literature and history. The material is focused thematically regarding the stages of women's lives and the different relationships that affect each stage

including childhood, adolescence, adulthood, motherhood, work, politics, image. Some genres to be examined include short stories, poetry, journals, letters, narratives, speeches, and novels. This course will help both female and male students discover their own voices by seeing the struggles, strengths and successes of powerful women throughout the ages. Students will write at least one literary analysis.

Signifies a course that fulfills an American Literature requirement.

@ Signifies a course that fulfills the second Literature requirement.

Multilingual Learners Program

The Multilingual Learner (ML) courses listed below are designed to meet the needs of students that have been identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP). The aim of the courses is to help these students to gain proficiency in English, as quickly as possible, to enable them to become successful in the regular classroom, the overall school environment and the community at large. The course level that the student takes is dependent on the student's score on the Massachusetts English Proficiency Assessment (MEPA), local English proficiency assessments, and teacher recommendations.

ELD Entering (English Language Development Level 1) (Grades 9-12)

The objective for this level is to increase the amount and the accuracy of students' ability to respond to, and to produce the language as described. The focus is to develop the components of language skills with respect to vocabulary control, linguistic complexity, and language control. Students at this level typically can:

- respond to pictorial or graphic representation of the language of the content areas.
- Produce and respond to words, phrases or chunks of language when presented with one-step commands and/or directions.
- Begin to ask, answer, and respond to "WH"-, choice, or yes/no questions, and/or statements with sensory, graphic or interactive support.

ELD Emerging (English Language Development Level 2) (Grades 9-12)

The objective for this level is to increase the amount and the accuracy of a student's ability to respond to, and to produce the language as described. The focus is to continue to develop the components of skills with respect to vocabulary control, linguistic complexity, and language control. Students at this level typically can:

- Respond to general language related to the content areas.
- Produce and respond to phrases or short sentences.
- Produce oral or written language with phonological, syntactic, or semantic errors that often impede the meaning of the communication when presented with one to multiple-step commands, directions, questions, or a series of statements with sensory, graphic or interactive support.

ELD Developing (English Language Development Level 3) (Grades 9-12)

The objective for this level is to increase the amount and the accuracy of a student's ability to respond to, and to produce the language as described. The focus is to strengthen the components of language skills with respect to vocabulary control, linguistic complexity, and language control. Students at this level typically can:

- Respond to and produce general and some specific language of the content areas.
- Respond to and produce expanded sentences in oral interaction or written paragraphs.
- Respond to and produce oral or written language with phonological, syntactic or semantic errors that may impede the communication, but retain much of its meaning, when presented with oral or written, narrative or expository descriptions with sensory, graphic or interactive support.

ELD Expanding (English Language Development Level 4) (Grades 9-12)

The focus at this level is for students to refine the components of language skills with respect to vocabulary control, linguistic complexity, and language control. The focus on academic language is explicit. Students at this level typically can:

- Respond to and produce specific and some technical language of the content areas.
- Respond to and produce a variety of sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in oral discourse or multiple, related sentences or paragraphs.
- Respond to and produce oral or written language with minimal phonological, syntactic or semantic errors that do not impede the overall meaning of the communication when presented with oral or written connected discourse with sensory, graphic or interactive support.

ELD Bridging (English Language Development Level 5) (Grades 9-12)

Students at this level typically are only scheduled into the English Language Development class on an individual basis. Students at this level typically can

- Produce specialized or technical language of the content areas.
- Produce and respond to a variety of sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in extended oral or written discourse, including stories, essays or reports.
- Produce and respond to oral or written language approaching comparability to that of proficient English peers when presented with grade level material.

Mathematics Program

Freshmen Classes

Course	Level	Prerequisites
		Teacher Recommendation
Algebra 1	Honors	Middle School Math Teacher/High School Department Head Recommendation
	CPA	Middle School Math Teacher/High School Department Head Recommendation
	CP	Middle School Math Teacher/High School Department Head Recommendation
Fundamentals of Algebra 1	CP	Middle School Math Teacher/High School Department Head Recommendation
Geometry	Honors	Middle School Math Teacher/High School Department Head Recommendation
Geometry	CPA	Middle School Math Teacher/High School Department Head Recommendation

Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Classes

Course	Level	Prerequisites	Teacher Recommendation
		Prerequisite Course, Grade	
Geometry	Honors	B+ in Algebra 1 Honors OR A+ in Algebra 1 CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CPA	C in Algebra 1 CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CP	Successful completion Algebra 1 CP	Or Teacher Recommendation
Fundamentals of Geometry	CP	Successful completion Fundamentals of Algebra 1	Or Teacher Recommendation
Course	Level	Prerequisites	
		Prerequisite Course, Grade	
Algebra 2	Honors	B- in Geometry Honors	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CPA	C in Geometry CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CP	Successful completion Geometry CP	Or Teacher Recommendation
Fundamentals of Algebra 2	CP	Successful completion Fundamentals of Geometry	Or Teacher Recommendation
Course	Level	Prerequisites	
		Prerequisite Course, Grade	
Pre-Calculus	AP	B- in Algebra 2 Honors	Or Teacher Recommendation
	Honors	B- in Algebra 2 Honors	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CPA	C in Algebra 2 CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CP	Successful completion Algebra 2 CP	Or Teacher Recommendation
Advanced Mathematical Concepts	CP	Successful completion Fundamentals of Algebra 2	Or Teacher Recommendation
Course	Level	Prerequisites	
		Course, Grade	
Calculus	H	Successful completion of AP Pre-Calculus or Pre-Calculus Honors OR a B+ or better in Pre-Calculus CPA	And Teacher Recommendation
Probability and Statistics	CPA	Successful completion of Pre-Calculus at any level	Or Teacher Recommendation
Course	Level	Prerequisites	
		Prerequisite Course, Grade	
AP Calculus AB	AP	Successful completion of AP Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus Honors, or Pre-Calculus CPA	And Teacher Recommendation
AP Calculus BC	AP	B- or higher in both Algebra 2 Honors and Pre-Calculus Honors OR Successful Completion of AP Pre-Calculus	And Teacher Recommendation
AP Statistics	AP	Successful completion of AP Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus Honors, or Pre-Calculus CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation

Mathematics at WRHS

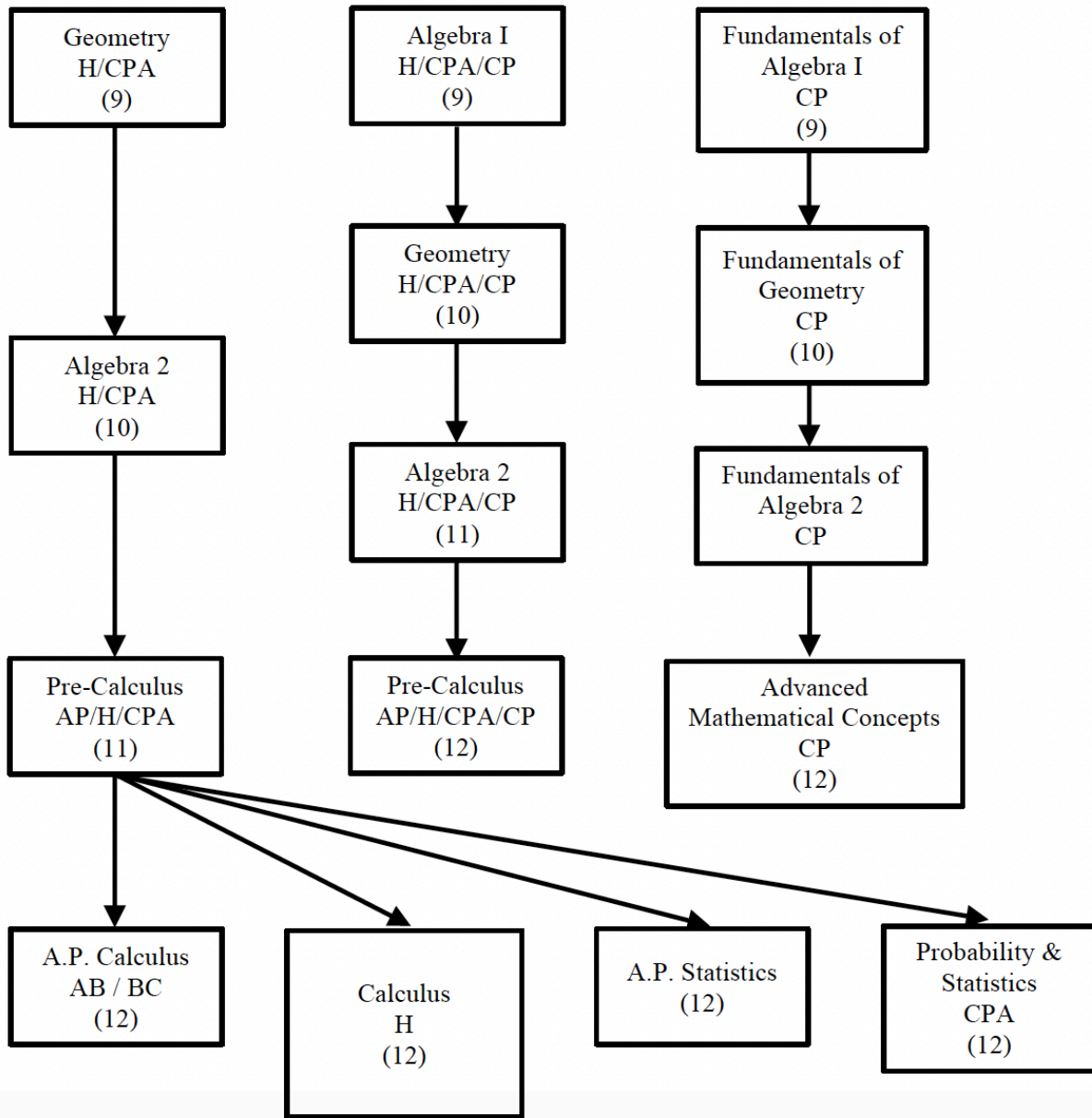
In today's technology-driven world, mathematical literacy is as essential as verbal literacy. The goal of the WRHS Mathematics Program is to continue to provide learning opportunities, support, and encouragement for all students in a mathematics program that includes a strong emphasis on fundamental understanding of the basic concepts and skills of algebra and geometry, and to improve their understanding of statistics and probability in preparation for their individual future mathematics courses of study, and for standardized testing. Additionally, it will continue to provide a variety of advanced mathematics courses that will extend, advance, and broaden the mathematics understanding and knowledge base of all students during their four-year high school experience. This is done through aligning our programs with the Mathematics Curriculum Framework-2017 and State Community College prerequisites for entry-level college coursework.

Wachusett's graduation requirement in Mathematics is 15 credits. It is recommended, however, that all students complete four years of Mathematics to ensure college and career readiness. Massachusetts state universities require four years of math.

The use of calculators is an integral part of the mathematics courses offered at Wachusett. Although the type of required calculator depends on the individual course, it is recommended that all students have access to a scientific calculator for their use on homework, projects, etc. The advent of the graphing calculator has brought about many changes in the curriculum, reflected in textbooks, courseware, and the classroom. Some courses offered in the Mathematics Program will require the use of a calculator with the ability to graph and are specifically identified in the course description.

Mathematics is a course that requires the student to continually apply and increase the level of learning, day to day. It is therefore expected that each student will be prepared for class and will participate in his or her class. This requires that all homework and additional studying be completed in preparation for each day's class. When a course is offered at multiple levels, students should take the level recommended by their present math teacher.

MATHEMATICS SEQUENCE



Lower School Options

Foundations of Mathematics (Grades 9-12) 5 credits

This course is formatted with the application of appropriate modifications and learning strategies that address the specific learning styles of each individual student. Classes are conducted in a structured setting where the curriculum emphasis is on building basic foundational math skills. Emphasis is on verbal/oral presentation of lessons and materials paired with individualized instruction. Topics presented include basic computation of negative/positive integers, algebraic equations, graphing, word problems, logic, and basic geometry. Note to students who plan to play sports in college: The NCAA has not approved this class as a core course requirement.

Basic Math Connections 1 and 2 (Grades 9 and 10)

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to fundamental concepts in both algebra and geometry using an integrated approach. Students will cover topics including problem-solving, number patterns, powers and exponents, variables and expressions, integers, solving equations, combining like terms, the distributive property, factoring, absolute value, square roots, ratios, fractions, decimals, percentages, graphing, the coordinate system, probability, and basic statistics (mean, median, mode, and range). Geometry topics include the area of rectangles, parallelograms, triangles, trapezoids, and circles; the circumference of a circle; and the volume of prisms and cylinders. The course is taught at a pace that allows for multiple opportunities for drill and practice. This class is ideal for students seeking a thorough review and reinforcement of basic math concepts. Note: This course is not approved by the NCAA as a core requirement for students planning to play sports in college.

Algebra 1 (H, CPA, CP; Grade 9) 5 credits

This course is the foundation for all future math courses at the high school and college level. Students will learn how to solve problems algebraically and graphically. Among the concepts studied are: solving linear equations and inequalities, linear functions and their graphs, solving systems of equations and inequalities, exponential properties and functions, operations with polynomials, and solving quadratic equations.

Fundamentals of Algebra 1 (CP, Grade 9) 5 credits

This course is the first year of a four-year math program. The course will reinforce and develop fundamental math skills needed for future math courses. Topics include: a brief review of pre-algebra skills, solving equations and inequalities, solving and applying proportions, writing and graphing functions and linear functions, solving systems of equations and inequalities, and exponents and exponential functions. Note to students who plan to play sports in college: The NCAA has not approved this class as a core course requirement.

Geometry (H, CPA, CP; Grades 9-10) 5 credits

The goals of this course are to have students investigate and master the concepts and relationships of geometry before they are introduced to formal proofs. The subjects are brought to life with investigations, constructions, activities, and projects. Students apply inductive reasoning as they perform investigations, look for patterns, and make conjectures. They follow algebraic, paragraph, and flow-chart proofs, building their reasoning and logic skills prior to getting to formal proofs where they can better understand the relevance of the proof. Students in Geometry CP will develop all the standard geometry skills but the course will have less emphasis on formal deductive proof. Students in Honors Geometry will have more emphasis on independent investigative tasks to help them develop a further understanding of the topics and relate to their knowledge of Algebra.

Fundamentals of Geometry (CP, Grade 10) 5 credits

This course is the second year of a four-year math program. The course will continue to develop algebra skills and explore the essential concepts of geometry. Topics include: reasoning in geometry, parallel and perpendicular lines, parallel lines and angles, polygon properties, circles, area, Pythagorean Theorem and special right triangles, volume, and probability and statistics. Note to students who plan to play sports in college: NCAA has not approved this class as a core course requirement.

Lower School / Upper School Options

Algebra 2 (H, CPA, CP; Grades 10, 11) 5 credits

This class prepares students to take Pre-Calculus and Statistics. A major goal of this course is for students to develop skills in manipulating and solving linear, quadratic, exponential, polynomial, radical, rational, and logarithmic equations. Topics include linear functions, systems, polynomial functions, rational expressions, powers, roots, radicals, quadratics, exponential and logarithmic functions, and inverse functions. It is recommended that students taking Algebra 2 at the Honors level have a graphing calculator (TI-83, TI-84, or TI-84 Plus).

Upper School Options

Foundations of Mathematics (Grades 9-12) 5 credits

This course is formatted with the application of appropriate modifications and learning strategies that address the specific learning styles of each individual student. Classes are conducted in a structured setting where the curriculum emphasis is on building basic foundational math skills. Emphasis is on verbal/oral presentation of lessons and materials paired with individualized instruction. Topics presented include basic computation of negative/positive integers, algebraic equations, graphing, word problems, logic, and basic geometry. Note to students who plan to play sports in college: The NCAA has not approved this class as a core course requirement.

Fundamentals of Algebra 2 (CP, Grade 11) 5 credits

This course is the third year of a four-year math program designed to prepare students for an entry-level college mathematics course. The course will spend time strengthening previously learned math skills. Topics include: operations on real numbers; properties of exponents; solving multi-step equations and inequalities involving fractions; factoring; operations with polynomials and rational expressions; unit measurements and significant figures; solving and graphing systems of two equations and inequalities; and basic trigonometric functions. Note to students who plan to play sports in college: The NCAA has not approved this class as a core course requirement.

Advanced Mathematical Concepts (CP, Grade 12) 5 credits

This course is the fourth year of a four-year math program designed to prepare students for an entry-level college mathematics course. Topics include: simplifying and factoring polynomial expressions; solving quadratic equations; rational expressions and equations; radical expressions and equations; and systems of linear equations. Note to students who plan to play sports in college: The NCAA has not approved this class as a core course requirement.

Pre-Calculus (AP, Grades 11-12) 5 credits

This is a college-level mathematics course that follows the guidelines from the AP College Board to prepare students for the AP Precalculus Exam. Students that take AP PreCalculus will gain a deep understanding of functions by modeling real-world data and by examining functions graphically, numerically, verbally, and analytically. Students will also develop rigorous symbolic manipulation skills needed for future mathematics courses. A graphing calculator is needed for the AP Exam and is required for the course (TI-84 Plus or HP Prime).

Pre-Calculus (H, CPA, CP; Grades 11-12) 5 credits

This course is very rigorous and prepares students to take Calculus in the future. It expands upon some concepts studied in Algebra 2 such as polynomial functions, matrices, and complex numbers. It includes an in depth study of many other types of functions including linear, composite, inverse, exponential, rational, and trigonometric. It also introduces advanced mathematical concepts such as conics, polar coordinates and sequences and series. Some mathematical modeling is done to relate these pre-calculus concepts to the real world. A graphing calculator is required for this course (TI-83, TI-84, or TI-84 Plus).

Calculus (H, Grade 12) 5 credits

This course provides an overview of what would be covered in a college-level, first-year calculus course. Key topics covered include functions and limits, differentiation, applications of the derivative, integration, applications of the definite integral, logarithmic and exponential functions, and techniques of integration. A TI-84 graphing calculator or its equivalent is required for this class.

Probability and Statistics (CPA, Grade 12) 5 credits

This course will use an activity-based approach to probability and statistics. The course will cover such topics as collecting and displaying data, measures of central tendency and variation, basic probability, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, and chi-square analysis. A graphing calculator is required for this course (TI-83, TI-84, or TI-84 Plus).

Advanced Placement Statistics (AP, Grades 11, 12) 5 credits

This course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students who successfully complete the course and AP Examination may receive credit and/or advanced placement for up to two semesters of college coursework in Statistics. A graphing calculator is required for this course (TI-83, TI-84, or TI-84 Plus). It is expected that students who take this course will sit for the AP Statistics exam in May.

Advanced Placement Calculus AB (AP, Grade 12) 5 Credits

This is a college-level mathematics course that follows the guidelines from the AP College Board to prepare students for the AP Exam and the second year of calculus at the college level. Students will study the four major topics of calculus: limits, derivatives, definite integrals, and differential equations. The course emphasizes multiple approaches to calculus, with concepts, results and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, and analytically. A graphing is required for the AP Exam, and it is required that all students enrolling in this course have one of their own to use in class and at home. (TI-83/84 TI84 Plus, or HP Prime). It is expected that students who take this course will sit for the AP Calculus AB exam in May.

Advanced Placement Calculus BC (AP, Grade 12) 7.5 Credits

This course is an extension of Calculus AB rather than an enhancement; it includes all the topics covered in AB as well as parametric, polar, and vector representations of functions. The course emphasizes multiple approaches to calculus, with concepts, results and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, and analytically. A graphing calculator is required for the AP Exam, and it is required that all students enrolling in this course have one of their own to use in class and at home. (TI-83/84 TI84 Plus, or HP Prime). It is expected that students who take this course will sit for the AP Calculus BC exam in May. Students who take the AP Calculus BC exam will receive an exam score for AB calculus as well.

In junior and senior year, students can apply to enroll in two math classes concurrently to further advance their studies. Students should speak with their current math teacher and complete the [Double-up Form](#) to request this opportunity. Student requests are considered and approved by the math department head and not all requests will be approved. If seats are available in the requested courses, students will be scheduled for their first and second-choice math classes.

Music Program

Music Elective Courses			
Course	Semester Courses		
Grades 9-12	American Popular Music of the 20 th Century Beginning Guitar Beginning Piano Exploring Fine Arts: Music Exploring Fine Arts: Music Student Classroom Assistant (SCA) Exploring World Cultures Through Music Intermediate Piano Intro to Electronic Music Music in Film		
Music Full-Year Courses			
9-12	Concert Bands "Green" or "White"	CPA	Placement Audition: No
9-12	Percussion Techniques	CPA	Placement Audition: No
9-12	Wind Ensemble	H	Placement Audition: Yes
9-12	Wachusett String Orchestra	CPA	Placement Audition: No
9-12	Wachusett Chamber Orchestra	H	Placement Audition: Yes
9-12	Concert Chorus, Treble Voices	CPA	Placement Audition: No
9-12	Wachusett Chorale, Mixed Voices	CPA	Placement Audition: No
9-12	Wachusett Chamber Choir, Treble Voices	H	Placement Audition: Yes
9-12	Wachusett Singers, Mixed Voices	H	Placement Audition: Yes
10-12	Applied Music Theory	CPA	Placement Audition: No
11-12	AP Music Theory	AP	Prerequisite: Applied Music Theory
Music Beyond School Day Courses			
9-12	Honors Jazz Ensemble*	H	Placement Audition: Yes
9-12	Jazz Ensemble II*	CPA	Placement Audition: No
9-12	Honor Jazz Choir*	H	Placement Audition: Yes
9-12	Private Instrument & Voice Lessons		Placement Audition: No
9-12	Symphony Orchestra		Placement Audition: No

*Please see the description of Independent Study courses as printed in this Educational Guide.

The Wachusett Regional High School Music Department's curriculum focuses on the concept that any student expressing desires to enrich their education through music may do so. The curriculum's principal concentration is performance, supporting 12 ensembles – each performing at least four times per year. Nine other courses encompass diverse areas of music study to broaden the student experience. The emphasis in the music courses is on individual as well as ensemble musical development. All the courses provide preparation for continuing performance as well as a lifelong understanding and enjoyment of all areas of music.

American Popular Music of the 20th Century (Grades 9-12) 2.5 credits (Semester)

A general and introductory course offering students an overview of the diverse popular musical styles of the 20th and 21st century – from the “Blues” through current Hip-Hop and R & B. No prior musical training or knowledge is required. The course will include a great deal of listening to analyze and compare the many styles.

Introduction to Electronic Music (Grades 9-12) 2.5 credits (Semester)

This introductory course offers students a hands-on, project-based experience in using digital audio workstations. Students will examine popular songs and learn the process of creating songs digitally. By the end of the course, students will have written several original short songs on their computers. No prior musical training or knowledge is required.

Beginning Piano (Grades 9-12) 2.5 credits (Semester)

This course is a ‘hands on’ class designed for students who have had little or no prior piano instruction and would like to learn how to play the piano. The course will include familiarization with the keyboard, music reading, basic theory, playing single note melodies as well as melodies accompanied by chords. By the end of the

semester students should be able to play well-known songs. Student progress will be measured and graded by periodic performance exams.

Beginning Guitar (Grades 9-12) 2.5 credits (Semester)

This course is a 'hands on' course designed for students who are interested in learning to play the guitar and have had no prior experience. The course will include familiarization with the guitar, music reading and basic theory, playing single note melodies as well as chords. By the end of the semester students should be able to play several popular songs. Student progress will be measured and graded by periodic performance exams.

Music in Film (Grades 9-12) 2.5 credits (Semester)

This course provides an overview of film music from the 20th century. Topics to be discussed include history, famous composers, the process of film scoring, and how music and its relationship to film have changed over time. Students will view a variety of film excerpts with a goal of identifying the musical decisions made by the composers and how those decisions affect the viewing experience, and will also create their own original music for films. Additional activities include readings, lectures, and research.

Exploring Fine Arts: Music (Pass/Fail) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: determined eligibility of students with defined disabilities) (Semester)

This is a collaborative class for beginning students and advanced music students. Students will gain an introductory knowledge to the world of music through a variety of means. Students will learn about composers, musical notation, composition, instruments, performance, and musical forms through projects, demonstrations, lecture, games, and movement.

Exploring Fine Arts: Music Student Classroom Assistant 2.5 credits (Semester)

This is a collaborative class for beginning students and advanced music students. Students will gain an introductory knowledge to the world of music through a variety of means. Students will learn about composers, musical notation, composition, instruments, performance, and musical forms through projects, demonstrations, lecture, games, and movement. A small number of advanced band, choir, and orchestra students will be accepted into the class as student classroom assistant*. These students will assist with the general administration and occasional instruction of the class. Students with an interest in music education, special education, and music therapy are encouraged to apply.

Exploring World Cultures Through Music (Grades 9-12) 2.5 credits (Semester)

This course is a study of world music and culture. Students will become familiar with the many ethnic similarities and differences that exist around the globe, which will allow them to make informed cultural comparisons. The semester is divided into several segments to explore the music and cultural areas of each continent. During this exploration, students will identify several concepts that are common denominators for each culture's music. Through a research project, students will learn about a culture of their choice, culminating in a presentation and short performance in the musical style native to that culture.

Intermediate Piano (Grades 9-12) 2.5 credits (Semester) (Prerequisite: Minimum grade of 90 in Beginner Piano or piano proficiency entrance exam)

This course is for students who want to further develop their skills from the beginning piano course or from prior piano experience. Students taking this course should already be proficient in reading basic music notation and playing songs utilizing hands together. In this course, students will continue to master the techniques of playing, learn many pieces of various styles, increase music theory and reading vocabulary, improve sight-reading skills, and perform both major and minor scales. Class participation and the ability to work independently is a must, as students will learn and perform individual pieces during class as well as group pieces with other students.

Applied Music Theory (CPA, Grades 10-12) 5 credits

The course includes the study and development of practical skills in reading, writing, and sight-singing music, musical signs and terms, intervals, triads, major and minor scales, key signatures, meter, rhythm, and harmony. Students will develop an ability to identify musical pitches, both singularly and in combinations through melodic and harmonic dictation. It is strongly suggested that students electing this course also be enrolled in a performance course. This course is the prerequisite for AP Music Theory.

AP Music Theory (AP, Grades 11-12) 5 credits (Prerequisite: Minimum grade of B in Applied Music Theory)

This course pursues the advanced study of theory, harmony, form and analysis, composition, and ear training. The course provides substantial preparation for a music theory course at the freshman level in college. It is

strongly recommended that students electing this course be enrolled in a performance course. Students may earn college credit by taking the course at the AP level and scoring well on the AP Music Theory exam.

Percussion Techniques (CPA, Grades 9 - 12) 5 credits

Percussion techniques class is intended for intermediate percussionists who already have some percussion experience. This class will focus on technical development on all percussion instruments, musical literacy and terminology, and proper care for the instruments. Musical development is reinforced through individual instruction and daily practice. In addition to learning individual techniques, this class will learn high school level percussion ensemble repertoire and standard concert band repertoire. All students in this class will perform in one of the high school concert bands (green or white) at all school concerts.

Wachusett String Orchestra (CPA, Grades 9-12) 5 credits

The String Orchestra is for intermediate players. This ensemble studies and performs standard high school string orchestra repertoire. Rehearsals focus on technical development, tone production, bowing techniques, intonation, musical terminology and balancing the ensembles' sound. Musical development is reinforced through individual instruction and daily practice. Private lessons are encouraged but not required. Participation in several performances each year is required. Incoming freshmen string players should select **STRING ORCHESTRA** as their first choice elective when signing up for courses.

Wachusett Chamber Orchestra (H, Grades 9-12) 5 credits (Audition required for placement)

The Chamber Orchestra is the Honors string orchestra for advanced performers. This ensemble studies and performs selections from the difficult levels of the high school string orchestra repertoire. Students are required to take private lessons, and are encouraged to participate in the solo and ensemble concerts. Participation in several performances each year is required including quarterly concerts held at the high school, festival performances, and the "Madrigal Dinner." Students should arrange an audition before scheduling their courses (auditions are traditionally held in late February/early March) for placement in the Chamber Orchestra. Incoming freshmen string players should select **STRING ORCHESTRA** as their first choice elective when signing up for courses. Individual student placement for Chamber Orchestra will be done after the registration process is completed.

Concert Bands Green & White (CPA, Grades 9-12) 5 credits

The Concert Bands, the "Green Concert Band" and the "White Concert Band", are for intermediate players. These ensembles study and perform standard high school band repertoire. Rehearsals focus on technical development, tone production, intonation, musical terminology and balancing the ensembles' sound. Musical development is reinforced through individual instruction and daily practice. Participation in quarterly concerts held at the high school are required as part of each term grade. To ensure that both Concert Bands (Green and White) are equal in size, instrumentation, and performance ability, students who are already members of one of the concert bands must designate on their course registration form the band to which they belong (Green or White). All incoming freshmen should select **BAND Grade 9** as their first choice elective when signing up for courses. Individual student placement for each concert band (Green or White) will be done after the registration process is completed.

Wind Ensemble (H, Grades 9-12) 5 credits (Audition required for placement)

The Wind Ensemble is the Honors concert band for advanced performers and is composed of a specifically balanced instrumentation. The ensemble studies/performs selections from the difficult levels of high school band repertoire. Students are required to take private lessons, participate in solo and ensemble performances and engage in daily practice. Participation in several performances each year is required including quarterly concerts held at the high school, festival performances, the "Madrigal Dinner", and all varsity home football games. Students should arrange an audition prior to scheduling their courses (auditions are held in late February/early March) for placement in the Wind Ensemble. All incoming freshmen should select **BAND Grade 9** as their first choice elective when signing up for courses. Individual student placement for Wind Ensemble will be done after the registration process is completed.

Concert Chorus (CPA, Grades 9-12) 5 credits

The Wachusett Concert Chorus is open to students of beginning to intermediate vocal backgrounds. As part of an ensemble that values every member's unique voice, students develop a variety of vocal and musical skills including tone production, breath support, intonation, and sight-reading. Students will explore music from historical, ethnic and cultural perspectives through the study of a varied choral repertoire from many styles and languages. Participation in several performances each year is required, including quarterly concerts held at the

high school. Solo singing for the instructor is required and participation in voice recitals is encouraged. In addition to developing the concept and skills of artistic singing, this chorus can prepare students for entrance into the Wachusett Chorale, Singers and Chamber Choir. Incoming freshmen should select **CHORUS Grade 9** as their first choice elective when signing up for courses. Individual student placement for each choir will be done after the registration process is completed.

Wachusett Chorale (CPA, Grades 9-12) 5 credits

The Wachusett Chorale is open to students of intermediate to early advanced vocal backgrounds. As part of an ensemble that values every member's unique voice, students develop a variety of vocal and musical skills including tone production, breath support, intonation, and sight-reading. Students will explore music from historical, ethnic and cultural perspectives through the study of a varied choral repertoire from many styles and languages. Participation in several performances each year is required, including quarterly concerts held at the high school. Solo singing for the instructor is required and participation in voice recitals is encouraged. This chorus can prepare students for entrance into the honors choirs. Incoming freshmen should select **CHORUS Grade 9** as their first choice elective when signing up for courses. Individual student placement for each choir will be done after the registration process is completed.

Wachusett Chamber Choir (H, Grades 9-12) 5 credits (Audition required for placement)

The Wachusett Chamber Choir is for the advanced choral singer. The choir performs the most difficult grade of choral music of the major periods of musical history, as well as popular and show literature. Students are required to take private lessons, participate in solo and ensemble performances, participate in a public recital, and engage in daily practice. Participation in several performances each year is required, including quarterly concerts held at the high school, festival performances, the "Madrigal Dinner", some home varsity soccer games and special appearances given throughout the year. Students should arrange an audition before scheduling their courses (auditions are held in late February/early March) for placement in an honors choir. Incoming freshmen should select **CHORUS Grade 9** as their first choice elective when signing up for courses. Individual student placement for each choir will be done after the registration process is completed.

Wachusett Singers (H, Grades 9-12) 5 credits (Audition required for placement)

The Wachusett Singers is for the advanced choral singer. The choir performs the most difficult choral music of the major periods of musical history as well as popular and show literature. Students are required to take private lessons, participate in solo and ensemble performances, participate in a public recital and engage in daily practice. Participation in several performances each year is required including quarterly concerts held at the high school, festival performances, the "Madrigal Dinner," some home varsity soccer games, and special appearances given throughout the year. Students should arrange an audition before scheduling their courses (auditions are held in late February/early March) for placement in an honors choir. Incoming freshmen should select **CHORUS Grade 9** as their first choice elective when signing up for courses. Individual student placement for each choir will be done after the registration process is completed.

Honors Jazz Ensemble Independent Study (Grades 9-12)** 2.5 credits – Full year (Audition required for placement) Prerequisite: Audition required as well as enrollment in one of the instrumental ensembles that rehearses during the school day.

The Honors Jazz Ensemble meets each Tuesday evening from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. from mid-September through June. Membership is determined by audition. Attendance at every rehearsal is required. If a student misses three (3) rehearsals, they will be dropped from the ensemble. Students are expected to learn individual parts in preparation for rehearsals, take private lessons on the instrument and listen to recordings of a variety of jazz artists to further their understanding of jazz style and nuance. Participation in several performances each year is required including quarterly concerts, festivals and community events. Auditions are held in September and audition materials are available from the band director at the high school.

Jazz Ensemble II Independent Study (Grades 9-12)** 1.25 credits – Full year.

Jazz Ensemble II meets each Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:00 from mid-September through June. Attendance at every rehearsal is required. If a student misses three (3) rehearsals they will be dropped from the ensemble and fail the class. Students are expected to learn individual parts in preparation for rehearsals. Participation in several performances each year is required, including quarterly concerts, festivals and community events. Private lessons are not required for members of Jazz II, but strongly recommended.

Honors Jazz Choir Independent Study (Grades 9-12)** 2.5 credits – Full year. (Audition required for placement) Prerequisite: Audition required as well as enrollment in one of the performing groups that rehearses during the school day (band, choir, or orchestra). The Honors Jazz Choir meets each **Monday evening from 5 to 7:30 p.m. from mid-September through June**. Attendance at every rehearsal is required. If a student misses three (3) rehearsals, they will be dropped from the ensemble. Students are expected to learn individual parts in preparation for rehearsals, to take private voice lessons and to listen to Jazz music as much as possible. Participation in several performances each year is required, including quarterly concerts held at the high school. Auditions are held in September and audition materials are available from the choral instructor at the high school in June of the prior school year.

Wachusett Symphony Orchestra Independent Study (Grades 9-12)** 2.5 credits – Full year (Audition required for placement) Prerequisite: Audition required as well as enrollment in one of the instrumental ensembles that rehearses during the school day (band, choir, or orchestra). Students will perform a variety of Full Orchestra works ranging from movements of symphonies to film scores. Symphony Orchestra meets each Thursday evening from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. from mid-September through June. Membership is determined by audition. Attendance at every rehearsal is required. If a student misses two (2) rehearsals for unexcused reasons, they will be dropped from the ensemble. Participation in two performances each year is required. Auditions are held in September and audition materials are available from the orchestra director at the high school.

Private Instrument and Voice Lessons (Grades 9-12)

The Music Department is pleased to offer private lessons on all instruments and voice through the **Artist-In-Residence Program**. Professional musicians teach half-hour lessons on a weekly basis in the WRHS Music area. Lessons may be arranged by contacting the Administrative Assistant for the Arts. Students may also choose to study privately with a professional musician who may not be associated with the Artist-In-Residence Program but is sanctioned by the WRHS Music faculty. (Please see the Music faculty for information concerning this matter.) In rare cases, students may receive Independent Study credit for music study beyond the school day with express permission of the music department head.

*Please see the description of Student Classroom Assistant as printed in the full WRHS Educational Guide.

**Please see the description of Independent Study courses as printed in the full WRHS Educational Guide.

Wachusett Pathways Program (WPP)

The Wachusett Pathways Program (WPP) provides students the opportunity to gain career skills. This knowledge will help prepare them for entry into the workplace and/or a post-secondary institution. Each Pathways major offers participating students academic instruction, hands-on learning, and career-readiness skills such as resume writing and interviewing practice.

The Wachusett Pathways Program offers concentrated studies in the following programs:

- Automotive Technology
- Business/Finance
- Business/Marketing
- Computer Science
- Criminal Justice
- Digital Art & Design
- Education
- Engineering Technology
- Health Sciences

Students are encouraged to start investigating Pathways classes during their freshman and sophomore years through elective courses. Applications for a seat in a specific WPP major are accepted November through January of sophomore year. Acceptance decisions for the Wachusett Pathways Program will consider students' academic, attendance and discipline records. Students may be admitted to the Pathways Program after sophomore year if space is available, the required courses have been completed, and the program aligns with their academic and career goals. Interested students should consult with their school counselor.

To earn a WPP Certificate of Completion, students must successfully pass all the required courses (bolded) plus electives for a total of 15 major-specific credits by the end of their senior year. Students can apply Fine Art credits earned through the following WPP courses—Intro to Digital Art and Design, Engineering and Architectural Design, Exploring Computer Science I, and Exploring Computer Science II—toward the WPP Certificate of Completion. All programs are dependent upon staffing and student enrollment.

While WPP courses are open to all students, WPP students are given priority seating in the “required courses” (bolded in each WPP chart).

Innovation Pathways

WRHS currently offers Innovation Pathways in Manufacturing, inside of our Engineering Technology major, and Health Care and Social Assistance, inside of our Health Sciences major. Innovation Pathways are designed to give students coursework & experience in high-demand industries.

Students complete two required technical courses and two advanced courses related to continued study in their chosen major. They also complete a 100-hour Internship or Capstone experience. Current WPP students who wish to pursue Innovation Pathways within their major submit their applications in their junior year.

Automotive Technology

The Automotive Technology Pathway is recommended for a student that is passionate about vehicles, interested in hands-on learning, and eager to develop technical skills in automotive repair and maintenance.

Automotive Technology Major:

Wachusett Pathway Required Courses (10 credits): Intro to Automotive Technology (2.5 cr); Automotive Technology I (2.5 cr); Automotive Technology II (5 cr)

Elective Options (at least 5 additional credits): Automotive Technology Independent Study (2.5-5 cr); Introduction to Business (2.5 cr); Personal Finance (2.5 cr); Computer Applications (2.5 cr); Entrepreneurship (2.5 cr); Intro to Digital Art & Design (5 cr); Engineering and Architectural Design (5 cr)

Suggested Pathways (NOT MANDATORY):

Students are able to choose their own pathway as long as they take required courses and eligible elective offerings. Pathways can still be completed if begun in the Junior year.

Freshman	Introduction to Business OR Intro to Digital Art & Design	
Sophomore	Intro to Automotive Technology Automotive Technology I (can also be taken in Junior year) Personal Finance OR Computer Applications	
Junior	Automotive Technology Independent Study Engineering and Architectural Design OR Entrepreneurship	Automotive Technology Independent Study Entrepreneurship
Senior	Automotive Technology II Exploring Automotive Technology CLA	

Possible Degree Programs/ Certifications *	Automotive Technology Certificate, ASE Certification OSHA 10, Auto Tech AAS	Automotive Collision Repair Technology, ASE Certification, I-CAR, OSHA 10	ASE Certification, Hydraulic License, OSHA 10	ASE Certification
Possible Careers	Automotive Technician, Diesel Technician, Machine Operator	Auto Body Technician	Small Engine Repair, Machine Operator	Parts Counter Retail

* Additional certifications after high school are not mandatory, but can help an individual enter and advance in the field.

Required Courses

Required for students enrolled in the Automotive Technology WPP, these courses contain a limited number of seats for students not enrolled in the program.

Introduction to Automotive Technology (Grades 10-12, WPP) 2.5 credits

This course is meant for both the student who plans to enter the field of automotive repair and the student who wants to learn how to work on his/her own car. In this course, students will learn industry safety, proper tool and equipment usage, the basic anatomy of a vehicle, major automotive systems, and basic maintenance, such as performing an industry-standard oil change, tire maintenance, and basic brake service. Students will have the opportunity to work in a live shop atmosphere.

Automotive Technology I (Grades 10-12, WPP) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Introduction to Automotive Technology)

This course will be of interest to those students planning to move on in their automotive technology studies. Topics will focus on industry-standard Maintenance and Light Repair (MLR) objectives. Students will gain knowledge about the principle operation of the brakes and steering and suspension systems, along with an introduction to engine controls and diagnostic procedures. Students will have some exposure to scan tools and DVOMs used to troubleshoot problems associated with customer vehicles. By the end of the course, students will be able to identify aspects of the brake system and steering and suspension components and will have a basic knowledge of the computer and control systems.

Automotive Technology II (CP, Grade 12, WPP) 5 credits (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Auto Tech. I)

This course will give those students wishing to enter the field of automotive technology the experience to troubleshoot, repair, and maintain the various automotive systems. Emphasis will be placed on On-Board Diagnostic (OBDII) procedures, electrical systems, starting and charging systems, and industry-standard Maintenance and Light Repair (MLR) procedures of the major automotive systems. Students will work on vehicles based on his/her level of competency. This course will provide the student with the background needed to be successful in a technical institute or to enter directly into the automotive repair trades.

Elective Courses

WPP Automotive Technology students must earn an additional **five credits** beyond the required courses and graduation requirements.

See the full list at the top under Automotive Technology Major for eligible electives outside of Automotive Technology.

Automotive Technology Independent Study (Grade 11-12, WPP)** 2.5 or 5 credits, depending on the student's schedule (Prerequisites: B or higher in Intro. to Auto. Tech. and Auto. Tech. I and teacher recommendation)

Automotive Independent study is for students that excel in the automotive area. This course will consist of advanced theory, operation, diagnostics, and repair of various automotive systems. The student will have the chance to be exposed to all aspects of automotive repair, including shop management. The student will be expected to mentor and assist younger students with various levels of learning while working in the automotive shop.

**Please see the description of Independent Study courses as printed in the full WRHS Educational Guide.

Business/Finance

The Business/Finance Pathway is recommended for a student that enjoys working with numbers, analyzing data, and developing strategies to solve financial challenges. They may be interested in entering the business workplace or pursuing a business degree.

Business/Finance Major:

Wachusett Pathway Required Courses (10 credits): Accounting I (5 cr); Advanced Accounting (5 cr); Computer Applications (2.5 cr); Personal Finance (2.5 cr)

Elective Options: Advanced Placement Economics (5 cr); Bank Internship; Concepts in Economics I (2.5 cr); Concepts in Economics II (2.5 cr); Concepts in Economics Honors (5 cr); Entrepreneurship (2.5 cr); Introduction to Business (2.5 cr); Marketing I (5 cr); Personal Finance (2.5 cr); Sports and Entertainment Marketing (2.5 cr)

Suggested Pathways (NOT MANDATORY):

Students are able to choose their own pathway as long as they take required courses and eligible elective offerings. Pathways can still be completed if begun in the Junior year.

	Furthering Education Pathway	Workforce Pathway
Freshman	Freshman Seminar	Freshman Seminar
Sophomore	Computer Applications	Computer Applications
Junior	Accounting I	Accounting I Eligible Elective (2.5 cr)
Senior	Advanced Accounting Eligible Elective (2.5 cr)	Personal Finance Entrepreneurship

Possible Degree Programs/Certifications	Accounting, Business, Business Administration, Economics, International Business	Many employers accept candidates with a high school diploma, but short courses and certificate programs can improve job prospects.
Possible Careers	Auditor, Banker, Certified Public Accountant, Controller, FBI Agent, Financial Advisor, Financial Consultant, Investment Banker, Treasurer	Accounting Clerk, Billing Specialist, Collections Specialist

Required Courses

Required for students enrolled in the Business/Finance WPP, these courses contain a limited number of seats for students not enrolled in the program.

Accounting I (CPA, Grades 10–12, WPP) 5 credits

This course provides students with an introduction to basic accounting procedures and principles. This course is recommended for students who wish to enter the business world after high school graduation, as well as those who plan to major in Business in college. Students who are interested in accounting should also select Computer Applications.

Computer Applications (Grades 9–12, WPP) 2.5 credits

This introductory course covers the basics of Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Word skills taught will include file management, formatting personal and business letters, and reports. Excel will concentrate on basic spreadsheet skills, creating spreadsheets, using functions, and formatting tables. PowerPoint instruction will

focus on preparing students to create top-quality presentations to meet the expectations in college and business settings.

Advanced Accounting (H, Grades 10–12, WPP) 5 credits (Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation Required)

Honors accounting is recommended for very strong students as their first course in accounting but may also be taken after successful completion of Accounting I. This course will cover the entire accounting cycle at an accelerated pace. Students will be given the opportunity to develop an understanding of how a business records, analyzes and interprets financial information. Concepts, standards, and principles followed by all professional accountants, in both public and private practice will be explored. This course includes topics such as the accounting cycle, cash transactions, inventory control, depreciable assets and uncollectible accounts. This course is strongly recommended for students who would like to pursue business at the collegiate level.

Personal Finance (Grades 9–12, WPP) 2.5 credits

This course is designed to alert, inform, and educate students in concepts of personal finance and money management. Six broad topics will be the foundation of the course: earning income, buying goods and services, using credit, saving, financial investing and insurance. The course will teach students to identify and prioritize their personal money management goals, develop personal spending and savings plans, comprehend the impact of time on the value of money, understand the cost of using credit, and protect assets.

Elective Courses

WPP Business/Finance students must earn an additional **five credits** beyond the required courses and graduation requirements.

See the full list at the top under Business/Finance Major for eligible electives outside of Business/Finance.

Bank Internship (Grades 10–12, WPP)** 1.25, 2.5 or 5 credits

Students interested must complete the required application through their school counselor.

Credits will vary depending on the number of periods/days per week the student works at the bank. (Priority is given to students who are enrolled in or have completed the Accounting I or Personal Finance course, although all students may participate in the program with the approval of the Pathways Department Head.) This is a hands-on internship that provides students with the opportunity to work in the All One Credit Union branch located on the Wachusett Regional High School campus. The students are trained in all aspects of a teller's position.

Entrepreneurship (Grades 10–12, WPP) 2.5 credits

This semester course will introduce students to the principles of starting, operating and maintaining a successful business. Students will explore sales and advertising strategies, learn how businesses are financed and discuss human resource management issues.

Introduction to Business (Grades 9–12, WPP) 2.5 credits

This is a semester course suggested for those students who are interested in learning more about business and possible careers in business. It is designed to build an understanding of economics and basic business concepts. Specialized units will cover the stock market, maintaining a checkbook, teamwork, managing a business, computer simulations, and money management.

**Please see the description of Independent Study courses as printed in the full WRHS Educational Guide.

Business/Marketing

The Business/Marketing Pathway is recommended for a student that is creative, strategic, and interested in understanding consumer behavior and brand development. This pathway is ideal for individuals who enjoy communication, storytelling, and problem-solving, and who have a passion for advertising, market research, and digital media.

Business/Marketing Major:

Wachusett Pathway Required Courses (10 credits): Marketing I (5 cr); Marketing II (5 cr)

Elective Options: Accounting I (5 cr.); Advanced Accounting (5 cr.); AP Economics (5 cr); Concepts in Economics I (2.5 cr); Concepts in Economics II (2.5 cr); Concepts in Economics Honors (5 cr); Entrepreneurship (2.5 cr); Introduction to Business (2.5 cr); Personal Finance (2.5 cr); Sports and Entertainment Marketing (2.5 cr); Computer Applications (2.5 cr); Intro to Digital Art & Design (5 cr); Business Independent Study (1.25, 2.5 or 5 cr); School Store Independent Study

Suggested Pathways (NOT MANDATORY):

Students are able to choose their own pathway as long as they take required courses and eligible elective offerings. Pathways can still be completed if begun in the Junior year.

	Furthering Education Pathway	Workforce Pathway
Freshman	Intro to Business	Intro to Digital Art & Design
Sophomore	Intro to Digital Art & Design Computer Applications	Intro to Business, Computer Applications OR Sports and Entertainment Marketing
Junior	Marketing I Personal Finance	Marketing I Entrepreneurship OR Personal Finance
Senior	Marketing II Business Independent Study	Marketing II

Possible Degree Programs/ Certifications	Business Management, Business Administration, Business Marketing, Digital Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Global Marketing	Certified Sales Professional (CSP), Training in CRM software (like Salesforce), Customer Service Excellence Certification, Google Analytics Certification, Certified Special Events Professional, National Retail Federation Certifications
Possible Careers	Advertising Manager, Brand Ambassador, Content Manager, Digital Marketing Specialist, Product Manager, Communications Manager, Media Relations, Market Research Analyst, Social Media Manager	Customer Service, Event Coordinator, Retail Sales, Sales Representative

Required Courses

Required for students enrolled in the Business/Marketing WPP, these courses contain a limited number of seats for students not enrolled in the program.

Marketing I (CPA, Grades 10–12, WPP) 5 credits

This one-year course teaches students marketing foundations and functions, such as selling, promoting, advertising, branding, and product planning. Students will examine careers in marketing throughout the year. Students are encouraged to participate in the Wachusett chapter of DECA (a national organization that develops emerging leaders in marketing, hospitality, finance, and entrepreneurship) and compete in the various statewide competitions.

Marketing II (CPA, Grades 11-12, WPP) 5 credits (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Marketing I or teacher recommendation)

This follow-up course to Marketing I will focus on new areas of marketing including marketing research, pricing and the impact of social media. Students will have an opportunity to explore potential careers, create resumes, develop a portfolio and conduct mock interviews. Simulations, group projects and work experiences are studied in depth. Students may organize and participate in DECA activities for the school, lead sales campaigns for WRHS products, and conduct actual market research in the school community.

Elective Courses

WPP Business/Marketing students must earn an additional **five credits** beyond the required courses and graduation requirements.

See the full list at the top under Business/Marketing Major for eligible electives outside of Business/Marketing.

Sports and Entertainment Marketing (Grades 9-12, WPP) 2.5 credits

This course will explore the basic marketing concepts of sports and entertainment marketing. It will include a review of target marketing, segmentation, sponsorship, event marketing, promotions, and the implementation of sports and entertainment plans. Through activities and projects, students will learn the concepts and theories that apply to professional, college, and amateur sports, the motion picture industry, music industry, and recreation industry. Students will explore topics such as the role of agents, ethical images of athletes and celebrities, endorsements, sponsorships, and careers in the sports and entertainment industry.

Business Independent Study** 2.5 or 5 credits (Prerequisites: Successful completion of Into to Digital Art & Design (formerly Graphic Communications I), Commercial Art I, Marketing I, or Marketing II, or teacher recommendation)

Students will create and execute a marketing plan for the Wachusett Pathways Program. Students will create marketing materials as well as organize and conduct two fundraising events. Strong oral communication and organizing skills and professionalism are required.

School Store Independent Study** 2.5 credits or 5 credits

Students are given the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in managing and operating our school store, combining elements of entrepreneurship, retail management, marketing, and financial literacy. In this self-directed course, students will work independently and in small teams to oversee the day-to-day operations of the school store, from inventory management and product selection to customer service and sales strategies. Students interested must complete the required application through their school counselor.

**Please see the description of Independent Study courses as printed in the full WRHS Educational Guide.

Computer Science

The Computer Science Pathway is recommended for a student that enjoys problem-solving, logical thinking, and has a strong interest in technology and programming. This pathway is ideal for individuals who are curious about how computers work, enjoy coding, and are eager to learn how to design and develop software, websites, or apps.

Computer Science Major:

Wachusett Pathway Required Courses (10 credits): Exploring Computer Science I (2.5 cr); Exploring Computer Science II (2.5 cr); AP Computer Science Principles (5 cr); AP Computer Science A (5 cr)

Elective Options (at least 5 additional credits): Website Development (2.5 cr); Computer and Network Fundamentals (2.5 cr); Engineering & Architectural Design (5 cr); Intro to Digital Art and Design (5 cr); Art Foundations (5 cr); Introduction to Business (2.5 cr); Entrepreneurship (2.5 cr); AP Physics (5 cr)

Suggested Pathways (NOT MANDATORY):

Students are able to choose their own pathway as long as they take required courses and eligible elective offerings. Pathways can still be completed if begun in the Junior year.

	Furthering Education Pathways		Workforce Pathway
	Computer Programming/Cybersecurity	Game Design	IT Technology
Freshman	Geometry	Intro to Digital Art & Design OR Art Foundations	Algebra I
Sophomore	Algebra II	Exploring CompSci I Exploring CompSci II	Exploring CompSci I Exploring CompSci II
Junior	AP Computer Science Principles	AP Computer Science Principles	AP Computer Science Principles
Senior	AP Computer Science A (Java) AP Physics	AP Computer Science Java	Intro to Business Entrepreneurship

Possible Degree Programs/ Certifications	Computer Science, Cybersecurity	Game Design	A+ Certification
Possible Careers	Computer Programmer, Network Engineer, Cybersecurity	Game Designer	IT Technician

Required Courses

Required for students enrolled in the Computer Science WPP, these courses contain a limited number of seats for students not enrolled in the program.

Exploring Computer Science I (Grades 9–12, WPP) 2.5 credits

This course will explore human computer interaction in which students are introduced to the concepts of computer and computing while investigating the major components of computers and the suitability of these components for particular applications. Next, students become “computational thinkers” by applying a variety of problem-solving techniques as they create solutions to problems in a variety of contexts. Finally, students are prepared to take the role of a developer by expanding their knowledge of programming and Web page design and applying it to the creation of Web pages, programs, and documentation for users and equipment. Fine Arts credits available.

Exploring Computer Science II (Grades 9–12, WPP) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Exploring Computer Science I)

This course is a continuation of Exploring Computer Science I. In this course, students are introduced to some basic issues associated with program design and development. Students will design programming solutions to a variety of computational problems including animated stories, video games and community based projects. Next, students explore how computing facilitates new methods of managing and interpreting data. Students use computers to translate, process and visualize data in order to find patterns and test hypotheses. The final unit in this course challenges students to apply previous concepts to the study of robotics and work in small groups to build and program a robot to perform a required task. Fine Arts credits available.

Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (AP, Grades 11–12, WPP) 5 credits (Prerequisites: Successful completion of Geometry or teacher recommendation)

This course takes a multidisciplinary approach to teaching the underlying principles of computation. The course will introduce students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the Internet, cybersecurity concerns, and computing impacts. Computer Science Principles also gives students the opportunity to use current technologies to create computational artifacts for both self-expression and problem solving. Together, these aspects of the course make up a rigorous and rich curriculum that aims to broaden participation in computer science. Students taking this class are expected to sit for the AP Computer Science Principles exam in May.

Advanced Placement Computer Science A (AP, Grades 11–12, WPP) 5 credits (Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra II or teacher recommendation)

This course is equivalent to a first-semester, college-level course in computer science. The course introduces students to computer science with fundamental topics that include problem solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing. The course emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem-solving and design using Java language. These techniques represent proven approaches for developing solutions that can scale up from small, simple problems to large, complex problems. The AP Computer Science A course curriculum is compatible with many CS1 courses in colleges and universities. Students taking this class are expected to sit for the AP Computer Science A exam in May.

Elective Courses

WPP Computer Science students must earn an additional **five credits** beyond the required courses and graduation requirements.

See the full list at the top under Computer Science Major for eligible electives outside of Computer Science.

Website Development (CPA, Grades 10–12, WPP) 2.5 credits (Prerequisites: Successful completion of Exploring Computer Science I and II)

This course focuses on the basics of website design using the latest version of XHTML and CSS. Topics include text formatting, color, image maps, tables, frames, client-side forms, and insertion of audio and video files. Java Applets will be introduced. Students work on individual or team projects to create websites. Fine Art credits available.

Computer and Network Fundamentals (Grades 10–12, WPP) 2.5 credits

This course provides a technical overview of computers and computer networking used in business. Computers, peripherals, Windows OS, Apple OS and Networking concepts will be examined. Hands-on exercises are provided to give students experience with basic computer and network activities. Content learned will serve as a strong technical foundation for later courses or apprenticeships.

Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice Pathway is recommended for a student that is interested in law, public safety, and understanding the justice system. It appeals to individuals who are driven by a sense of duty and a desire to contribute to the protection and well-being of society.

Criminal Justice Major:

Wachusett Pathway Required Courses (10 credits): Criminal Justice I (5 cr); Criminal Justice II (5 cr)

Elective Options (at least 5 additional credits): AP U.S. Government & Politics (5 cr); AP Psychology (5 cr); Civics for the 21st Century (2.5 cr); Human Behavior (2.5 cr); Psychology I (2.5 cr); Psychology II (2.5 cr); Sociology (2.5 cr); History of Racism (2.5 cr); U.S. Government & Politics (CPA) (2.5 cr), Social Studies Seminar: Topics in Ethics (2.5 cr)

Suggested Pathways (NOT MANDATORY):

Students are able to choose their own pathway as long as they take required courses and eligible elective offerings. Pathways can still be completed if begun in the Junior year.

	Furthering Education Pathways						Workforce Pathway
	Law Enforcement/ Public Safety	Courts	Corrections	Psychology	Forensics	Politics	
Freshman	Freshman Seminar				Freshman Seminar Physics	Freshman Seminar	Freshman Seminar
Sophomore					Biology		
Junior	Criminal Justice I History of Racism Civics for the 21st Century				Criminal Justice I History of Racism Civics for the 21st Century Chemistry Human Body Works	Criminal Justice I History of Racism Civics for the 21st Century We the People	Criminal Justice I History of Racism Civics for the 21st Century
Senior	Criminal Justice II AP Psych OR Psych I and II OR Human Behavior Sociology				Criminal Justice II AP Psych OR Psych I and II OR Human Behavior Sociology Anatomy and Physiology	Criminal Justice II AP Psych OR Psych I and II OR Human Behavior Sociology	Criminal Justice II Psych I and II OR Human Behavior Sociology
Possible Degree Programs/ Certifications	Criminal Justice, Criminology, Political Science, Sociology Psychology	Criminal Justice, Political Science, Pre-Law, Sociology, Psychology	Criminal Justice, Political Science, Psychology	Criminal Justice, Criminal Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Criminology	Forensic Science, Forensic Pathology, Criminal Justice, Criminology	Political Science, History, Criminal Justice	Academy training, Specialized training, State licensure or certification, On-the-job training

Possible Careers	Police Officer, Trooper, Warden, Sheriff, Sheriff's Deputy, Detective, Probation Officer, Emergency Management, Cyber Security	Judge, Attorney, Public Defender, Prosecutor, Bailiff, Court Clerk, Court Reporter, Victim Advocate	Correctional Officer, Warden, Sheriff, Rehabilitation Specialist, Mental Health Clinician, Program Director, Parole Officer, Social Worker	Criminal Psychologist, Criminal Profiler, Clinical Psychologist, Social Worker	Crime Scene Investigator, Criminal Profiler, Fingerprint Technician, Forensic Pathologist, Medical Examiner, Coroner, Evidence Technician, Detective, Sheriff's Officer, Special Agent, DNA Analyst, Expert Witness	Attorney, Lobbyist, Legislator, Politician, Political Analyst, Sheriff	Police Officer, Correctional Officer, Crime Scene Technician, Security Officer, Private Investigator, Bailiff, Probation or Parole Assistant, 911 Dispatcher, Fish and Game Warden
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Required Courses

Required for students enrolled in the Criminal Justice WPP, these courses contain a limited number of seats for students not enrolled in the program.

Criminal Justice I (CP, CPA, Grades 11-12, WPP) 5 credits (Full year)

This course provides students with an overview of career options in Criminal Justice. Criminal Justice I is an introductory course founded on the fundamental principles of American law and basic applications of law today. Beginning with the history of law and philosophical understandings of the law, major units include: The Modern Criminal Justice System, Measuring and Explaining Crime, Criminal Law, Law Enforcement Today, Challenges to Effective Policing, Constitutional Law (Applications), and the American Court System. There will be guest speakers from law enforcement organizations and students *will be required* to attend several short field trips across the street to Holden Police Department, some of which involve physical training procedures. Most off campus trips are reserved for Criminal Justice II students. The Criminal Justice program maintains a close relationship with the Holden Police Department.

Please note:

1. *The content of this two-year course is inherently mature. Students and parents should understand this before enrolling in the course. If there are any concerns please contact the instructor.*
2. *The physical training components are team-building, career-based visits that focus on exposing students to the rigors of what it takes to become a police officer (boot camp style) and what the career is like once the training is completed. If there are any concerns please contact the instructor.*

Criminal Justice II (CPA Grade 12, WPP) 5 credits (Prerequisite: C+ or better in Criminal Justice I CPA to continue on to Criminal Justice II CPA. B+ or better in Criminal Justice 1 CP to take Criminal Justice II CPA OR teacher recommendation. Priority is given to WPP students enrolled in the Criminal Justice major.)

This course continues the work of Criminal Justice I and provides students with more nuanced examination of contemporary criminal justice issues and career opportunities beyond law enforcement. The major units of study include but are not limited to: the American Court System (cont'd), Practical Procedures, Punishment, and Sentencing, The Death Penalty in America, Probation and Community Corrections, Prison and Prison Life, Juvenile Justice and Terrorism. This course will also provide students with the opportunity to choose topics of their choice to study. Students will become an "expert" in their chosen topic and will—if they elect to do so—produce a capstone research project (thesis and presentation). There will be guest speakers from law enforcement organizations and students *will be required* to attend several field trips related to the field (courts, enforcement agencies, correctional facilities), some of which involve physical training procedures. The Criminal Justice program maintains a close relationship with the Holden Police Department.

Criminal Justice II (CP Grade 12, WPP) 5 credits (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Criminal Justice I CP or Criminal Justice CPA)

This course continues the work of Criminal Justice I and provides students with more nuanced examination of contemporary criminal justice issues and career opportunities beyond law enforcement. The major units of study include but are not limited to: the American Court System (cont'd), Practical Procedures, Punishment, and Sentencing, The Death Penalty in America, Probation and Community Corrections, Prison and Prison Life, Juvenile Justice and Terrorism. This course will also provide students with the opportunity to choose topics of their choice to study. Students will become an “expert” in their chosen topic and will—if they elect to do so—produce a capstone research project (thesis and presentation). There will be guest speakers from law enforcement organizations and students *will be required* to attend several field trips related to the field (courts, enforcement agencies, correctional facilities), some of which involve physical training procedures. The Criminal Justice program maintains a close relationship with the Holden Police Department.

Elective Courses

WPP Criminal Justice students must earn an additional **five credits** beyond the required courses and graduation requirements.

See the full list at the top under Criminal Justice Major for eligible electives outside of Criminal Justice.

Digital Art & Design

The Digital Art & Design Pathway is geared towards a student that is interested in a creative career using digital tools to create visual content.

Digital Art & Design Major:

WRHS Pathway Required Courses (10 credits): Intro to Digital Art & Design (5 cr); Digital Art and Design II (5 cr)

Elective Options (at least 5 additional credits): Art Foundations (5 cr); Digital Illustration (2.5 cr); Digital Photography (2.5 cr); Drawing 1 (2.5 cr); Drawing 2 (2.5 cr); Honors Drawing/Painting 1 (5 cr); Printmaking (2.5 cr); Engineering & Architectural Design (5 cr); Marketing 1 (5 cr); Marketing 2 (5 cr); Introduction to Business (2.5 cr); Entrepreneurship (2.5 cr); Exploring Computer Science 1 (2.5 cr); Exploring Computer Science 2 (2.5 cr); Website Development (2.5 cr); Psychology 1: Study of Human Behavior (2.5 cr); Digital Art Independent Study (2.50 cr or 5 cr)

Suggested Pathways (NOT MANDATORY):

Students are able to choose their own pathway as long as they take required courses and eligible elective offerings. Pathways can still be completed if begun in the Junior year.

	Furthering Education Pathways *					Workforce Pathway
	Graphic Design	Digital Art	Graphics/Marketing	Industrial Design Architecture	Product Design (UX/UI)	
Freshman	Intro to Digital Art & Design	Intro to Digital Art & Design	Intro to Digital Art & Design	Intro to Digital Art & Design	Intro to Digital Art & Design	Intro to Digital Art & Design
Sophomore	Honors Drawing and Painting 1 or Drawing 1 Drawing 2	Digital Art & Design II	Marketing 1	Engineering & Architectural Design	Exploring Comp. Sci 1 Exploring Comp. Sci 2	Digital Art & Design II
Junior	Digital Art & Design II	Drawing 1 Digital Illustration	Digital Art & Design II	Digital Art & Design II and Drawing 1 Drawing 2	Digital Art & Design II and Drawing 1 Drawing 2	Intro to Business Printmaking
Senior	Digital Art Independent Study (Portfolio Development) or Digital Photography Digital Illustration	Digital Photography Entrepreneurship	Marketing 2	Digital Art Independent Study Innovation and Invention	Psychology 1 Website Development	Digital Photography Entrepreneurship
Possible Degree Programs/Certifications	Communications Design / Graphic Design	Illustration, Photography, Game Design, Interior Design, Digital Arts	Marketing, Communications	Industrial Design, Architecture	Communications Design / Graphic Design, Web Development, Game Design	
Possible Careers	Graphic Designer, Art Director, Product (UX/UI) Designer, Content Creator	Animator, Illustrator, Concept Artist, Game Designer, Interior Designer, Photographer	Communications & Marketing Specialist, Social Media Manager, Content Creator	Industrial Designer, Architect	Product (UX/UI) Designer, Web Designer, Game Designer	Freelance Designer/ Illustrator, Design Assistant, Print Specialist, Content Creator

* Some colleges do not require a portfolio for admission into design programs, but many do. A portfolio usually consists of 15-20 pieces. Drawing, esp. from observation, is strongly encouraged. To obtain a job in graphic design, a college degree isn't necessarily required, but a professional quality design portfolio is expected.

Required Courses

Required for students enrolled in the Digital Art & Design WPP, these courses contain a limited number of seats for students not enrolled in the program.

Introduction to Digital Art & Design (CP, Grades 9-12, Art, WPP) 5 credits

This course is an introduction to digital art and design. Students will learn how to create raster and vector graphics using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. Students will also learn the basics of typography. Projects will include monograms, flag designs, pattern designs, posters, and logos. Students will gain an awareness of how design functions as a form of communication and plays a role in everyday life. This course is a prerequisite for Digital Art & Design II. Preference will be given to students in grades 9-10. This is a required course for students in the Wachusett Pathways Program Digital Art & Design Major, but you do not need to be in the WPP to take this course.

Digital Art & Design II (CPA, Grades 10-12, Art, WPP) 5 credits (Prerequisite: B- or better in Intro to Digital Art & Design, formerly Graphic Communications I)

This is a class for students who want to further develop their design skills. Units will cover publication design (books and magazines), advertising design (print and digital), and information design (maps and websites). Students will explore careers in design and create a resume. In addition, students create posters for WRHS fall and spring theatrical productions. Beginning motion graphics techniques will be introduced. This is a required course for students in the Wachusett Pathways Program Digital Art & Design Major, but students do not need to be in the WPP to take the course.

Elective Courses

WPP Graphic Communications students must earn an additional **five credits** beyond the required courses and graduation requirements.

See the full list at the top under Digital Art & Design Major for eligible electives outside of Digital Art & Design.

Digital Illustration (CP, Grades 10-12, Art, WPP) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: C- or better in Art Foundations or Intro to Digital Art & Design, formerly Graphic Communications I)

This course is designed for students who enjoy creating art on the computer and want to learn more about illustration as a form of visual communication: how to visualize information, develop characters, and tell stories. Students will use both Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop to create artwork and animation. We will also explore combining traditional artmaking methods with digital techniques and students will have access to digital drawing tablets.

Digital Photography (CPA, Grades 11-12, Art, WPP) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: C- or better in Art Foundations or Intro to Digital Art & Design, formerly Graphic Communications I)

This course introduces students to digital photography. Students learn camera basics, elements of exposure, as well as creative aspects of photography. Multiple genres of photography are covered, including portrait, and students will spend some periods taking pictures outside as weather permits. Lightroom and Photoshop image correction and enhancement techniques are covered. Students are encouraged to bring their own camera, although a limited number of Canon Rebel digital cameras with manual settings are available for students to share in groups.

Digital Art Independent Study (Grades 10-12, WPP)** 2.5 or 5 credits

This course offers students the opportunity to engage in a self-directed exploration of digital arts under the guidance of a WRHS teacher mentor. Students will define their area of focus, which may include topics such as digital illustration, 3D modeling, animation, video production, graphic design, interactive media, or any other digital art form. Through independent research, practice, and project development, students will deepen their understanding of digital tools, techniques, and creative processes. Regular meetings with the teacher mentor will provide feedback and support to help students refine their skills and achieve their artistic goals. Students interested must complete the required application through their school counselor.

Education

The Education Pathway is recommended for a student that is passionate about teaching, mentoring, and making a positive impact on the lives of others. It's a perfect fit for those who are patient, empathetic, and dedicated to fostering growth and learning in others.

Education Major:

Wachusett Pathway Required Courses (5 credits): Human Growth & Development (5 cr)

Elective Options (at least 10 additional credits): Education Practicum* (10 cr); Mental Health Education (2.5 cr); AP Psychology (5 cr); Psychology I (2.5 cr); Psychology II (2.5cr); Sociology (2.5 cr); Human Behavior (2.5 cr); Nutritional Science (5 cr); Classroom Learning Assistant (credits vary); Physical Education Student Classroom Assistant (1.25 cr); Creative Arts & Health (Dual 2.5 cr)

Suggested Pathways (NOT MANDATORY):

Students are able to choose their own pathway as long as they take required courses and eligible elective offerings. Pathways can still be completed if begun in the Junior year.

	Furthering Education Pathways					Workforce Pathway
	General Ed	Health Ed	Physical Ed	Fine Arts Ed	Special Ed	
Freshman	Freshman Seminar					
Sophomore						
Junior	Human Growth & Development					
Senior	Education Practicum* (by application only)	Education Practicum* (by application only)	Physical Education Student Classroom Assistant Psychology I Sociology Mental Health Education	Exploring Fine Arts: Visual Art OR Music CLA OR Creative Arts & Health Psychology I Sociology Mental Health Education	Education Practicum* (by application only)	Psychology I Sociology Mental Health Education Creative Arts & Health
Possible Degree Programs/Certifications	Bachelor's in Education, Degree in specific subject + teaching certification, NY and MA require a Master's degree after an initial period.					A few careers may require additional certification or training
Possible Careers	Early Childhood Teacher, Elementary School Teacher, Middle/High School Teacher: Math, English, Science, History, Language, Specialized Area	Health/Family and Consumer Science Teacher	Physical Education Teacher: Elementary, Middle, High	Visual Arts, Music, or Theater Teacher: Elementary, Middle, High	Special Education Teacher: Moderate or Severe Disabilities	Teacher's Aide/ Paraprofessional, Substitute Teacher, Preschool Assistant, Childcare Worker, Library Assistant, School Administrative Assistant, Tutor

**Students must apply for and gain acceptance into the Education Practicum during their junior year.*

Required Courses

Required for students enrolled in the Education WPP, these courses contain a limited number of seats for students not enrolled in the program.

Human Growth & Development (CP, CPA, Grade 11-12, WPP) 5 credits

This course examines the biological, psychological, and social aspects of human development. Students will explore how humans grow and change from conception through adolescence, with a focus on understanding the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social factors that shape human behavior. The CLEP exam will be offered for those students taking this course at the advanced level in the Innovation Pathway.

Elective Courses

WPP Education students must earn an additional **ten credits** beyond the Human Growth & Development and graduation requirements.

See the full list at the top under Education Major for eligible electives outside of Education.

Dual Enrollment Creative Arts & Health (Grade 12, WPP) (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Human Growth & Development CP/CPA)

This course provides both experiential and theoretical introductions to various arts therapies, including movement, art, music, and language arts, with a strong emphasis on the creative process.

Education Practicum (Grade 12, WPP) 10 credits

(Prerequisite: C+ or better in Human Growth and Development CP for CPA and Application Approval; C or better in Human Growth and Development CPA for CPA and Application Approval. **For the 2025-2026 school-year only, a teacher recommendation from the WPP is the only requirement.*)

This course is taken as part of the Education Pathway. Students work in a practical assigned school in the district directly with students and meet weekly for seminar class where they will engage in discussions, review key educational principles, and explore various teaching strategies. Topics covered will include classroom management, lesson planning, differentiation, assessment techniques, and supporting diverse learners. In the schools, students will work directly with students and collaborate with classroom teachers to support daily instruction. Responsibilities may include assisting with lesson delivery, providing one-on-one or small group support, helping with classroom organization, and observing effective teaching practices. Through this combination of coursework and in-field application, students will gain valuable insights into the dynamics of teaching and develop practical skills necessary for their future careers in education.

Mental Health Education (CP/CPA, Grade 11, 12, WPP) 2.5 credit (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Science of Health and Wellness)

This course offers a comprehensive overview of mental health concepts, designed for individuals seeking to understand and promote mental well-being. It covers foundational knowledge about mental health, including common mental disorders, their symptoms, and approaches to prevention and treatment. The course emphasizes the importance of mental health literacy, reducing stigma, and the role of supportive environments in fostering mental wellness. Students will explore the biological, psychological, and social factors that influence mental health, along with strategies for recognizing early warning signs of mental distress. The course also covers the importance of self-care, resilience-building techniques, and the promotion of positive mental health within communities.

Nutritional Science (Grade 11, 12, WPP) 5 credits (Prerequisite: C or better in Science of Health and Wellness. *Open only to students in the Education and Health Science Pathways in the 2025-2026 school year.* Students in the Health Science Innovation Pathway will have priority.)

This course provides students with an in-depth understanding of the principles of nutrition and their impact on overall health and well-being. Students will explore topics such as the functions of nutrients, dietary guidelines, meal planning, food safety, and the relationship between nutrition and chronic diseases. Through hands-on activities, research projects, and discussions, students will develop skills to make informed food choices, understand cultural and societal influences on diet, and create personalized plans for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The course emphasizes critical thinking about food systems, sustainability, and the role of nutrition in achieving long-term wellness goals.

Engineering Technology

The Engineering Pathway is geared towards a student that is interested in pursuing a college degree in any field of engineering/architecture or post-high school career path in computer aided design, manufacturing, or construction-related fields.

Engineering Technology Major:

A) INNOVATION Pathway: 20 credits= 2 Required Courses (7.5 cr) + 2 Advanced Level Courses (10 cr) + Capstone (2.5 cr)

Required Courses (based on career track, 7.5 credits + Capstone): Engineering & Architectural Design (5 cr); Advanced Manufacturing (2.5 cr); Advance Manufacturing Capstone (2.5 cr)

Advanced Level Courses (10 credits): AP Computer Science A (5 cr); AP Computer Science Principles (5 cr); AP Statistics (5 cr); AP Environmental (5 cr); AP Pre-Calculus (5 cr); AP Calculus AB (5 cr); AP Calculus BC (7.5 cr); AP Physics (5 cr)

B) Wachusett Pathway: 15 credits = 3-4 Required Courses (10 cr) + Electives (5 cr)

Required Courses (based on career track, 10 credits): Engineering & Architectural Design (5 cr); Career-Centered Engineering (2.5 cr); Innovation & Invention (2.5 cr); Advanced Manufacturing (2.5 cr); Manufacturing and Construction Technologies (2.5 cr)

Electives (at least 5 additional credits): Drawing 1 (2.5 cr); Drawing 2 (2.5 cr); Intro to Digital Art & Design (5 cr); Exploring Computer Science I (2.5 cr); Exploring Computer Science II (2.5 cr); AP Computer Science A (5 cr); AP Computer Science Principles (5 cr); AP Statistics (5 cr); AP Environmental (5 cr); AP Pre-Calculus (5 cr); AP Calculus AB (5 cr); AP Calculus BC (7.5 cr); AP Physics (5 cr); Project Based Learning Physics (5 cr)

Suggested Pathways (NOT MANDATORY):

Students are able to choose their own pathway as long as they take the required courses, advanced level courses (Innovation Pathways only), and eligible elective offerings (Wachusett Pathways). Pathways can still be completed if begun in the Junior year.

	INNOVATION Pathway	Furthering Education Pathways			Workforce Pathway
	Engineering / Manufacturing	Civil, Electrical, Mechanical Engineering	Environmental Engineering	Architecture	Manufacturing and Construction Technology
Freshman	Engineering & Architectural Design	Engineering & Architectural Design Career-Centered Engineering		Engineering & Architectural Design	
Sophomore	Career-Centered Engineering Innovation & Invention	Engineering & Architectural Design Career-Centered Engineering		Drawing 1 Drawing 2	Engineering & Architectural Design
Junior	Advanced Level #1 Advanced Level #2	Innovation & Invention AP Comp Science A	Innovation & Invention AP Environmental	Career-Centered Engineering Innovation & Invention	Career-Centered Engineering
Senior	Advanced Manufacturing Capstone	Advanced Manufacturing			Manufacturing and Construction Technologies Project Based Physics

Possible Degree Programs/ Certifications	Civil/ Mechanical/ Electrical/ Computer/ Manufacturing Engineering	Civil/ Mechanical/ Electrical/ Computer/ Manufacturing Engineering	Civil/ Mechanical/ Electrical/ Computer/ Manufacturing Engineering	Architecture, Architectural Engineering, Civil Engineering	Manufacturing Engineering Technology
Possible Careers	Manufacturing Engineer, CNC Operator, Robotics	Civil/ Mechanical/ Electrical/ Computer/ Manufacturing Engineer, CNC Operator, Robotics	Environmental Engineer, Alternative Energy Engineer, Drinking Water / Wastewater Engineer	Architect	CAD Technician, Entrepreneur, Manufacturing Technician, Equipment Installer, CNC Operator

Required Courses

Required for students enrolled in the Engineering Technology WPP, these courses contain a limited number of seats for students not enrolled in the program.

Engineering & Architectural Design (Grades 9-12, WPP) 5 credits

Students will have exposure to the following skills and trades within a STEM/STEAM based classroom environment: technical drawing (hand drawings, drawing boards, traditional drawing tools, sketching as a form of communication, practical application of sketching, ideation through sketching); two-dimensional design software (AutoCAD); three-dimensional design software (Onshape, Solidworks); home design software (Revit); kitchen design software; project management; cost estimating exploration. Fine Arts credits available.

Career Centered Engineering (Grades 10-12, WPP) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Engineering & Architectural Design)

This class is designed to expose students to the myriad options available in the field of engineering. Students will explore and learn about various fields of engineering, complete micro-projects involving each field of engineering, explore the engineering bid proposal process, learn to read and understand professional design documents, and apply the Engineering Design Process. This class will include guest speakers, possible site visits, and career-preparedness workshops and lessons. All students will develop a digital portfolio / living resume that showcases their work in the career centered engineering classroom. Fine Arts credits available.

Innovation and Invention (CPA, Grades 10-12, WPP) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Engineering & Architectural Design)

In this class students will apply skills they have learned from both their Engineering & Architectural Design class and Career Centered Engineering class. Students will be given novel engineering design challenges to solve using basic manufacturing technologies. Students will learn basic tool and equipment safety protocols along with how to use some manufacturing equipment such as 3-D printers, CNC routers, and woodworking and metal fabrication tools. Students will become well versed and aptly capable of applying the Engineering Design Process to real-world problems. Fine Arts credits available.

Advanced Manufacturing (CPA, Grades 11-12, WPP) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Engineering & Architectural Design and teacher recommendation)

In this hands-on classroom environment students are able to explore their personal interests while using advanced manufacturing technologies. Skills learned in this class can be directly applied to future career possibilities and secondary education. Students will learn safe and appropriate operating procedures for advanced manufacturing equipment such as; CNC Routing / Cutting / Forming, Laser Engraving and Laser Cutting, Practical and Production-based 3D Printing, Vinyl Cutting, Plastic Extrusion. This course is designed to provide students with highly technical skills and knowledge using the latest industry standard technologies. Fine Arts credits available.

Manufacturing and Construction Technologies (Grades 9-12, WPP) 2.5 credits

This course is designed as a career exploration course focused on providing students with real world skills. The goal of this project-based class is to expose students to a wide variety of skills and help connect with career and college choices. Students will have exposure to skills, tools and processes within a STEM/STEAM based classroom environment. Fine Arts credits available.

Advanced Manufacturing Capstone (Honors, Grade 11, 12, WPP) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in Advanced Manufacturing and Pathways teacher recommendation)

A required course for the Innovation Pathway. Students will work with an advisor to develop a research project related to their Innovation Pathway. Students will write research questions, conduct in-depth research, produce a paper or develop a project, and present their work to a panel of peers, teachers, and/or community members.

Elective Courses

WPP Engineering Technology students must earn an additional **five credits** beyond the required courses and graduation requirements.

See the full list at the top under Engineering Major for eligible electives outside of Engineering.

Health Sciences

The Health Science Pathway is geared towards students that are interested in pursuing careers in medicine and allied health care.

Health Sciences Major:

A) INNOVATION Pathway: 22.5 credits= 2 Required Courses (10 cr) + 2 Advanced Level Courses (10 cr) + Capstone (2.5 cr)

Required Courses (based on career track, 10 credits + Capstone): Survey of Health Science Careers (5 cr); Human Bodyworks (5 cr); Principles & Practices of Medical Studies (5 cr); Nutritional Science (5 cr); Healthcare & Social Assistance Capstone (2.5 cr)

Advanced Level Courses (10 credits): Psychology (AP or CLEP, 5 cr); Anatomy & Physiology (Dual 5 cr); AP Biology (5 cr); AP Chemistry (5 cr); Human Growth & Development (CLEP, 5 cr)

B) Wachusett Pathway: 15 credits = 2 Required Courses (10 cr) + Electives (5 cr)

Required Courses (based on career track, 10 credits): Survey of Health Science Careers (5 cr); Human Bodyworks (5 cr); Principles & Practices of Medical Studies (5 cr); Nutritional Science (5 cr); Human Growth & Development (CLEP, 5 cr); Mental Health Education (2.5 cr)

Electives (at least 5 additional credits): Psychology AP (5 cr); Psychology I (2.5 cr); Psychology II (2.5 cr); Anatomy & Physiology (5 cr); AP Biology (5 cr); AP Chemistry (5 cr); Nutritional Science* (5 cr); Human Growth & Development* (CLEP, 5 cr); Mental Health Education* (2.5 cr)

**These courses can count as electives, if taken beyond the 10 required credits.*

Suggested Pathways (NOT MANDATORY):

Students are able to choose their own pathway as long as they take the required courses, advanced level courses (Innovation Pathways only), and eligible elective offerings (Wachusett Pathways). Pathways can still be completed if begun in the Junior year.

INNOVATION Pathways					
Patient Care *		Therapy	Nutrition	Research	Public Health
Freshman	Freshman Seminar				
	Science of Health & Wellness Survey of Health Science Careers Biology	Science of Health & Wellness Biology			
Sophomore	Human Bodyworks <i>Human Growth & Development (CLEP)</i> Chemistry	Survey of Health Science Careers Human Bodyworks Chemistry	Survey of Health Science Careers Nutritional Science Chemistry	Survey of Health Science Careers <i>Human Growth & Development (CLEP)</i> Chemistry	Survey of Health Science Careers Mental Health Education Chemistry
	<i>Advanced Level Course #2 (Dual Enrollment Anatomy & Physiology)</i> Principles & Practices of Medical Studies Capstone	<i>Dual Enrollment Anatomy & Physiology</i> <i>Human Growth & Development</i> Capstone	<i>Dual Enrollment Anatomy & Physiology</i> <i>Human Growth & Development</i> Capstone	Human Bodyworks <i>Advanced Level Course #2</i> Capstone	<i>AP Psychology</i> <i>Human Growth & Development</i> Capstone
Junior					
Senior					

WACHUSETT Pathways						
	Patient Care *	Therapy	Nutrition	Research	Public Health	Healthcare Support
Freshman	Freshman Seminar					
Sophomore	Science of Health & Wellness Biology					
Junior	Human Bodyworks Chemistry	Survey of Health Science Careers Chemistry	Survey of Health Science Careers Chemistry	Survey of Health Science Careers Chemistry	Survey of Health Science Careers Chemistry	Survey of Health Science Careers Chemistry
Senior	Principles & Practices of Medical Studies Anatomy & Physiology	Human Bodyworks Anatomy & Physiology	Nutritional Science Human Growth & Development	Human Bodyworks AP Biology	Human Growth & Development Mental Health Education Sociology	Human Bodyworks Human Growth & Development

Possible Degree Programs/ Certifications	Nursing, Pre-Medicine, Psychology	Exercise Science, Occupational Therapy, Kinesiology, Health Science, Biology, Psychology		Biology, Chemistry, Forensic Science	Community Health, Global Health, Healthcare Administration, Public Health	Possible Certification Programs: Certified Nurses Assistant, Certified Medical Assistant, Patient Care Technician, Phlebotomy Technician, Pharmacy Technician
Possible Careers	Nurse, Licensed Nurse Practitioner, Physician, Pharmacist, Psychiatrist, Dentist	Athletic Trainer, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Speech Therapist, Massage Therapist	Dietitian, Nutritionist, Health Coach, Food Service Manager, Health Educator, Sports Nutritionist	Clinical Lab Scientist, Crime Scene Investigator, Geneticist, Pharmaceutical Manufacturer, Pathologist	Community Health Organizer, Health Policy Analyst, Hospital Administrator, Epidemiologist, Biostatistician	EMT/ Paramedic, Home Health and Personal Care Aide, Licensed Practical Nurse, Medical Assistant, Nursing Assistant/ Orderly, Optician, Phlebotomist

* The school counselor may recommend a different course of study depending on the student's intended college major and the selectivity of the colleges they are applying to.

Required Courses

Required for students enrolled in the Health Science WPP, these courses contain a limited number of seats for students not enrolled in the program.

Survey of Health Science Careers (CP, CPA, Grade 10–12, WPP) 5 Credits Course Description: During this course, students will explore a wide range of careers in the health science fields. They will delve into the educational pathways required for entry into different health science careers, as well as the average pay scales, job opportunities, and potential growth in these professions. In addition, students will practice and develop the necessary soft skills for employability in the field of health science, and gain insights into the basic daily tasks, roles, and responsibilities associated with the health science professions explored. This course will equip students with valuable insights into the health science industry, enabling them to make informed decisions about their future academic and career paths.

Healthcare and Social Assistance Capstone (Honors, Grade 12, WPP) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: Pathways teacher recommendation)

A required course for the Innovation Pathway. Students will work with an advisor to develop a research project related to their Innovation Pathway. Students will write research questions, conduct in-depth research, produce a paper or develop a project, and present their work to a panel of peers, teachers, and/or community members.

Human Bodyworks (CP, CPA; Grades 11, 12, WPP) 5 credits (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Science of Health and Wellness)

This course offers a comprehensive exploration of body systems, encompassing their anatomy, physiology, and the influence of illnesses. Students will delve into the origins of diseases, spanning both communicable and non-communicable conditions, and study the functions of the immune system in protecting the body against pathogens. By the course's conclusion, students will possess a foundation in the intricate workings of the human body and its illnesses, paving the way for advanced healthcare studies.

Mental Health Education (CP, CPA; Grades 11, 12, WPP) 2.5 credit (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Science of Health and Wellness)

This course offers a comprehensive overview of mental health concepts, designed for individuals seeking to understand and promote mental well-being. It covers foundational knowledge about mental health, including common mental disorders, their symptoms, and approaches to prevention and treatment. The course emphasizes the importance of mental health literacy, reducing stigma, and the role of supportive environments in fostering mental wellness.

Students will explore the biological, psychological, and social factors that influence mental health, along with strategies for recognizing early warning signs of mental distress. The course also covers the importance of self-care, resilience-building techniques, and the promotion of positive mental health within communities.

Nutritional Science (Grade 11, 12, WPP) 5 credits (Prerequisite: C or better in Science of Health and Wellness. *Open only to students in the Education and Health Science Pathways in 2025-2026.* Students in the Health Science Innovation Pathway get priority.)

This course provides students with an in-depth understanding of the principles of nutrition and their impact on overall health and well-being. Students will explore topics such as the functions of nutrients, dietary guidelines, meal planning, food safety, and the relationship between nutrition and chronic diseases. Through hands-on activities, research projects, and discussions, students will develop skills to make informed food choices, understand cultural and societal influences on diet, and create personalized plans for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The course emphasizes critical thinking about food systems, sustainability, and the role of nutrition in achieving long-term wellness goals.

Principles and Practices of Medical Studies (CPA, H; Grade 12, WPP) 5 credits (Prerequisite: C+ in Human Bodyworks CP or successful completion of Human Bodyworks CPA for CPA; C+ in Human Bodyworks CPA for Honors and Pathways teacher recommendation)

This course is tailored to ready students for their future studies in medicine, nursing, and healthcare. Upon successful completion, students will have a comprehensive understanding of medical language, including medical terminology and abbreviations. The curriculum covers anatomy and physiology in the context of pathophysiology, diagnostics, and treatments. Additionally, students will explore the history of medicine, gain insights into the healthcare industry, and delve into the ethical and legal principles concerning medical professionals and patient rights. Practical applications include reading and recording patient history, conducting health assessments (including vital signs), and practicing patient charting. By combining academic study with hands-on experience, the course equips students with foundational knowledge and clinical competencies essential for their collegiate pursuits in medicine.

Elective Courses

WPP Health Science students must earn an additional five credits beyond the required courses and graduation requirements.

See the full list at the top under Health Sciences Major for eligible electives outside of Health Science.

Physical Education

Wachusett Regional High School Physical Education Department Vision

WRHS Physical Education Mission Statement:
*The mission of the WRHS PE Department is to ensure that upon graduation, all students are dedicated to a lifetime of personal fitness. By enabling an **autonomous path** through the curriculum, the PE Department **increases motivation and participation** of students as they learn how to **create an individualized lifetime fitness plan**. By offering more electives and personal choices, students will be empowered to continue a lifetime of health and fitness.*

Mandatory Classes:

- Physical Education 9
- Project Adventure 1 (Grade 10)

Elective Classes:
****Allowed to be taken only once****

- Outdoor Education
- Project Adventure 2
- Self-Defense for Women
- PE 10 Games (Gr 10 only)

****Allowed to be taken twice****

- Backyard Games
- Strength & Conditioning
- Lifetime Sports
- Team Sports
- Unified Fitness
- Physical Education Classroom Assistant

(1) Autonomous Fitness Choice → (2) Increased Motivation and Participation → (3) Lifetime Fitness Plan

Grade 9
Fundamentals of Movement:
Intro to Lifelong Health & Fitness Plan

Grade 10
Project Adventure 1:
(a.) Self-Awareness, Character and Team Building.
(b.) Begin self-directed Lifetime Fitness Goals:
Elective Choices.

Grades 10, 11 & 12
Autonomy:
Proficiency and/or Mastery in Self-Directed Lifetime Fitness Goals

Fully Qualified Graduate
Lifetime of Health and Fitness.

ALL PE COURSES/CLASSES MEET EVERY OTHER DAY.
TO FULFILL YOUR PE GRADUATION REQUIREMENT, YOU MUST COMPLETE AND PASS A TOTAL OF 7.5 CREDIT HOURS BETWEEN GRADES 9-12.

[PE 9-2.5 Credits, Project Adventure I-1.25 Credits, and ALL ELECTIVES-1.25 Credits x 3. Total= 7.5 Credits]

REQUIRED PE COURSES:

Physical Education 9 (Full-Year, 2.5 Credit Hours): PE 9 introduces fundamentals of movement, giving students an appreciation for lifelong health and fitness. Students will be encouraged to work as a unified group by promoting inclusion for all in various physical fitness activities. They will also be challenged to consider their lifetime fitness goals as they engage in physical activities such as Level 1 Weight Training, Gymnastics, Pickleball, Basketball, Volleyball, and many other sports-based activities. Students must pass both semesters.

Project Adventure 1 (1 Semester, 1.25 Credit Hours): In this course, sophomore students learn problem-solving, trust-building, and how to push themselves outside of their comfort zone through challenge-by-choice. All students will set personal goals, while also assisting and motivating their peers in challenging situations, forcing them to think critically while actively listening. The students will experience being belayed and climbing at various heights on all PA 1 course elements.

ELECTIVES (All Electives are 1 semester, 1.25 Credits)

PE 10 Games: [This elective is only available to Grade 10 students] This 1 semester course includes the following 6 sports/activities: Football, Soccer, Softball, Basketball, Volleyball and the Weight Room. This class will review the skills and rules of each sport you learned and practiced during PE9 and then you will engage in games and tournaments. If you enjoy traditional team sports and also enjoy competing at an intermediate level or higher, this will be a great choice for you!

Each of the following Grade 10, 11 & 12 electives may be taken twice:

Backyard Games: This active, partner and team-based course will include familiar lifelong backyard and beach games such as Spikeball, Pickleball, and Golf Scramble. You will enjoy this course if you thrive on friendly but competitive tournaments and are willing to work on your overall cardiovascular and muscular endurance as well as mastering a variety of skills such as hand-eye coordination and accuracy. Before game and tournament play, skills will be practiced for proficiency and/or mastery.

Strength & Conditioning: This semester-long course will take place exclusively in the Weight Room and you will be expected to lift in every class. You will gain confidence in any gym setting as you master the proper form using barbells, dumbbells, cable equipment, and much more. Examples of units include Power Lifts, Plyometric Training, and Core strengthening. This course offers you an in-school free gym membership for the duration of the course and meets every other day. You will reach your fitness goals by developing a personal fitness program tailored to your own fitness needs that may include all components of fitness.

Lifetime Sports: This active, partner, and team-based course has a rich tradition in the Wachusett Physical Education Community. The longevity and success of this program are due to its unique curriculum which includes the most popular Summer Olympic Sports. You will test your physical and mental strength as you practice and master the skills required to compete successfully and competitively in tournament-style play after each unit. Lifetime Sports include activities that can be played throughout one's life such as Archery, Tennis, Badminton, and Volleyball.

Team Sports: This course is designed specifically for students who love to compete at a high level in any Team Sport. Successful participants will come to play hard every day and understand the importance of proper activewear and supportive sneakers to perform at a high level of gameplay. Along with a strong desire to compete passionately, the student will possess an advanced knowledge of team sports rules, and game concepts, and a spatial understanding of positioning on the field or court. Students will engage in competitive round-robin and double-elimination tournaments at the end of each unit. The participant must enjoy all team sports including, but not limited to, Football, Basketball, Floor Hockey, Softball, Soccer, and Volleyball!

Unified Sports & Fitness: [May be taken multiple times with teacher recommendation] Unified Fitness in Physical Education is a fully inclusive course that promotes physical fitness, teamwork, and social interaction by bringing together students with disabilities and their general education peers as equal partners. This course emphasizes collaboration, respect, and mutual understanding through engaging in a variety of activities designed to meet the diverse abilities and fitness goals of each participant. All students will participate in a range of fitness activities that focus on overall wellness, health, and inclusive social interaction. Each unit is 7 classes long and may include, but is not limited to the following: Walking/Hiking, Weight Training, Yoga/Pilates, Just Dance, Unified Track, and Unified Basketball.

Each of the following Grade 11 & 12 electives may be taken only once:

Outdoor Education: (Grades 11 and 12 only) The students will explore a variety of ways in which to enjoy and live in the outdoors using a balance of recreational activities and survival skills, while also respecting and caring for our environment. You will need to be properly dressed to go outside as you engage in activities such as canoeing, hiking, orienteering, and winter and snow activities such as cross-country skiing. Some survival skills will be practiced such as knot-tying, outdoor cooking, and shelter building.

Project Adventure 2: (Grades 11 and 12 only) Project Adventure 2 is a continuation and advanced version of Project Adventure 1. This elective has three prerequisites: (1) You must have successfully completed Project Adventure 1, (2) You must be willing to climb any element, and (3) You must have no fear of heights. PA2 adds higher and more challenging elements and you will be trained in more technical safety aspects of climbing such as being asked to assist in belaying and learn proper knot-tying for safety. This course is designed to encourage students to try new climbing element challenges while pushing themselves mentally and physically.

Self-Defense for Women: (Grades 11 and 12 only) This course is for anyone who identifies as female. It will teach skills for self-protection with an emphasis on the prevention of conflict. A component of instruction will be spent educating participants on basic confrontational principles and risk awareness/avoidance strategies. The introduction of this course will focus on self-defense roles and break falls and then students will be introduced to the Rape Aggression Defense System (RAD). RAD includes skills such as Basic Physical Defense, the Keychain Defense Option, and the Aerosol Defense Option. The course concludes with a RAD simulation exercise.

The following Grade 11 and 12 elective may be taken twice:

P.E. Classroom Assistants:

This course is designed for students with strong leadership qualities, an interest in working with other students of varying levels, and an enduring passion for unified sports and fitness. In order to apply for this course, a recommendation from your current P.E. teacher is required. Students will assist in setting up and breaking down equipment as well as being focused with strong safety instincts. P.E. Classroom Assistants will act as student mentors and will assist the teacher and paraprofessionals in the drills and games during all Unified Sports & Fitness activities and may also be asked to demonstrate proper physical education techniques. The Classroom Assistants will dress in appropriate fitness attire, model appropriate sportsmanship, and display hard work during gameplay. Students with an interest in physical education, special education, and similar careers are strongly encouraged to apply. For more information, please reach out to: krissy_teevens@wrsd.net. Availability is limited for this unique credit-earning position as a P.E. Classroom Assistant.

ELECTIVES	UNITS/ ACTIVITIES	UNITS/ ACTIVITIES	UNITS/ ACTIVITIES	UNITS/ ACTIVITIES	UNITS/ ACTIVITIES	UNITS/ ACTIVITIES
BACKYARD GAMES	PICKLEBALL	SPIKEBALL	KAN-JAM	TABLE TENNIS	CORNHOLE	GOLF SCRAMBLE
STRENGTH & CONDITIONING	POWER-LIFTING	FREE WEIGHTS & RESISTANCE TRAINING	PLYOMETRIC TRAINING	CABLE / AUX. MACHINES	CARDIO FITNESS	CORE & BALANCE TRAINING
LIFETIME SPORTS	ARCHERY	TENNIS	BADMINTON-SINGLES	BADMINTON-DOUBLES	VOLLEYBALL	Some Side Units: -Pickleball -Ladder Golf -Paddle Tennis
TEAM SPORTS	FOOTBALL	BASKETBALL	FLOOR HOCKEY	SOFTBALL	VOLLEYBALL	Some Side Units: Soccer/Speedball Ultimate Frisbee
UNIFIED SPORTS & FITNESS	WALKING / HIKING	WEIGHT ROOM TRAINING	YOGA / PILATES	UNIFIED BASKETBALL	UNIFIED TRACK	JUST DANCE +/or CARDIO TRAINING
OUTDOOR EDUCATION	CANOEING	WILDERNESS & SURVIVAL SKILLS	BUILDING SHELTERS	WINTER & SNOW ACTIVITIES	FISHING & OUTDOOR EDUCATION	Course Notice: Be prepared for all weather conditions
PROJECT ADVENTURE 2	HIGH ELEMENT CLIMBING	STRONG FUNDAMENTALS of CLIMBING	TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE: BELAYING & KNOT-TYING	DAILY MULTIPLE CLIMBS	TEACHER ASSISTANT RESPONSIBILITIES	PRE-REQ: -PA 1 (85 or >) -NO FEAR OF HEIGHTS
SELF-DEFENSE for WOMEN	MULTIPLE SELF-DEFENSE SYSTEMS & STRATEGIES	EMPOWERING SELF-CONFIDENCE	MIXED MARTIAL ARTS JIU-JITSU	KICKBOXING & BOXING SKILLS	RAD SIMULATION EXERCISE	Course Note: Open to all who identify as female
PE CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS	MUST APPLY FOR THIS POSITION – FOR MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT KRISSY TEEVENS AT krissy_teevens@wrsd.net					

WRHS Physical Education General Guidelines & Policies

PREPAREDNESS:

Physical Education classes meet every other day; both attendance and participation are necessary for accurate and daily formative assessments. In order to measure the mandatory state benchmarks for physical fitness and overall health, being prepared is essential. All students are required to dress or change into fitness attire and footwear that will allow full and safe participation. **Acceptable attire includes: T-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts and sweatpants as well as supportive, athletic lace-up sneakers.** [Slippers, Uggs, Crocs and all other non-activewear shoes and clothing greatly hinder participation as well as one's own personal safety, therefore they are not allowed during any P.E. classes.]

ABSENCES:

If you are absent from P.E. class for any reason, including routine absences from school, reach out to your teacher as soon as possible and schedule a make-up date/time. Make-ups can be completed during most activity periods or during a mutually agreed upon time between you and your teacher. It is your responsibility to initiate the make-up time in order to recover any/all points lost due to the missed assessment time during your absence.

SHORT & LONG TERM DOCTOR APPROVED MEDICAL EXCUSES:

If you become injured or experience a long term illness, an official note from your attending doctor that includes a start date and medical clearance end date will exempt you from any missed P.E. classes that fall between the dates listed on your medical form. Any other dates missed before or after your medical excuse form should be treated as a regular absence following the protocol above.

BEHAVIOR and SAFETY EXPECTATIONS:

In order to create a classroom environment that is conducive to learning, it is important to show respect, inclusion, cooperation and a positive attitude towards your peers. Safety expectations include wearing proper attire, following warm-up procedures, using equipment properly, adhering to rules and practiced techniques, staying aware of surroundings and reporting injuries immediately.

TEACHER/STUDENT COMMUNICATION: If a student concern arises, do not hesitate or wait to reach out to your teacher so he/she can address the situation immediately. The WRHS Physical Education Staff cares about your health, fitness and safety first and foremost.

WRHS Physical Education Overview of Absences and Makeup Policies for Pathways to Your Success		
Situation	Eligibility for Makeup Class	Additional Requirements
Absences due to illness or injury	Reach out to your teacher ASAP	Signed Physician's Note
Absences other than medical excuse	Eligible for Makeup Class	Reach out to your teacher ASAP
Absence due to cutting class	Not eligible for class credit recovery	N/A
Self-selects to not participate	Not eligible for class credit recovery	N/A
Improper Clothing	May participate at reduced class credit	Teacher's discretion
Improper Footwear	Not eligible for class credit recovery	N/A
Missed a full 90-min Long Block class	Eligible for Makeup Class	Long Block = 2 classes missed
Note: If you need to recover any lost credits in order to fulfill your PE graduation requirement of 7.5 credit hours over 4 years, you may enroll in an extra PE course during your junior and/or senior year. * Elective choices are not guaranteed for credit recovery *		

Science Program

Grade 9 Courses	Level	Prerequisites	
		Course/Grade	Teacher Recommendation
Freshman Physics	Honors	Scheduled in Geometry Honors	Required
	CPA	Scheduled in Algebra 1 Honors, Algebra 1 CPA, Geometry Honors, or Geometry CPA	Required
	CP	Scheduled in Algebra 1 CP	Required
Topics in Freshman Physics	CP	Scheduled in Fundamentals of Algebra 1	Required
Grade 10 Courses	Level	Prerequisites	
		Course/Grade	Teacher Recommendation
Biology	Honors	B- or better in Freshman Physics Honors OR A- or better in Freshman Physics CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CPA	C- or better in Freshman Physics CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CP	None	Or Teacher Recommendation
Topics in Biology	CP	Scheduled in Fundamentals of Geometry	Required
Grade 11 Courses	Level	Prerequisites	
		Course/Grade	Teacher Recommendation
Chemistry	Honors	<i>Students must meet the following:</i> B or better in Algebra 2 Honors or A or better in Algebra 2 CPA; and A or better in Biology CPA or B or better in Biology Honors	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CPA	<i>Students must meet the following:</i> B- or better in Algebra 1 CPA or C- or better in Geometry CPA or Successful completion of either Geometry Honors or Algebra I Honors; and C- or better in Biology CPA or successful completion of Biology Honors	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CP	Successful completion of Algebra 1 CP	Or Teacher Recommendation
Topics in Junior Physics	CP	Scheduled in Fundamentals of Algebra 2	Required
Grade 12 Electives	Level	Prerequisites	
		Course/Grade	Teacher Recommendation
Topics in Chemistry	CP	Scheduled in Fundamentals of Algebra 2 or Advanced Mathematical Concepts	Required
Senior Physics	CPA	<i>Students must meet the following:</i> C or better in Algebra 2 CPA or Pre-Calculus CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
Project Based Learning Physics	CP	Successful completion of Freshman Physics CP and Algebra 2 CP	Or Teacher Recommendation
Anatomy & Physiology	H	B+ or better in Biology CPA or B- or better in Biology Honors AND B+ or better in Chemistry CPA or B- or better in Chemistry Honors	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CPA	<i>Students must meet the following:</i> B- or better in Biology CPA or A- or better in Biology CP AND B- or better in Chemistry CPA OR A- or better in Chemistry CP OR Successful completion of Biology Honors	Or Teacher Recommendation
Dual Enrollment Anatomy & Physiology	DE	Students must complete and submit a Dual Enrollment application, meet with their school counselor to review course expectations, and have their application approved. Once students have been approved to enroll in the course, the school counselor will enter in the course recommendation and students will be able to select this course as a request.	By Application
Environmental Science	CPA	Students must successfully complete Biology CPA OR A- or better in Biology CP	Or Teacher Recommendation
Environmental Issues	CP	Successful completion of Biology CP	Or Teacher Recommendation
Natural History of New England	CP	Successful completion of Biology CP	Or Teacher Recommendation
AP Biology	AP	B+ or better in Biology CPA OR B- or better in Biology Honors	Required
AP Chemistry	AP	B+ or better in Chemistry CPA OR B- or better in Chemistry Honors	Required
AP Environmental Science	AP	B- or better in Chemistry Honors or Chemistry CPA	Required

AP Physics C: Mechanics	AP	<i>Students must meet the following:</i> B or better in Pre-Calculus Honors or CPA or successful completion of AP Pre-Calculus, and B or better in Freshman Physics Honors or CPA	Required
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Department Philosophy - The Science Department of Wachusett Regional High School strives for excellence in the science education of all its graduates. We recognize that science is a human endeavor designed to achieve an increasingly comprehensive and reliable understanding of the human species and its environment. Scientific literacy is an important key to a functioning, technology-based society.

The learning objectives of the Science Department are:

- To provide a basic understanding of how nature works in both living (life science) and non-living (physical science) systems, and to show their interrelatedness.
- To teach students the procedures and techniques used in scientific methodology (e.g. forming a hypothesis, conducting experiments, collecting and analyzing data to draw logical conclusions, etc.).
- To challenge and stimulate students to use, refine and communicate their powers of creative thinking, problem recognition, and problem solving in the scientific application of both hypothetical and real world situations.
- To provide a strong foundation to help our graduates achieve confidence and success in their introductory college science classes.

The WRHS Science Curriculum is designed to provide all students the opportunity to meet the stated objectives in a logical, sequential, comprehensive and varied manner.

The WRHS graduation requirement in Science coursework is the successful completion of three years (15 credits) of course work. College-bound students are strongly urged to take at least three years of laboratory science courses. All of the courses listed within this section are considered laboratory science courses. All full-year courses receive five credits and all semester science courses receive 2.5 credits. AP Biology and AP Chemistry meet 10.5 times during the seven-day cycle and receive 7.5 credits.

To complete these requirements the traditional course of study would have students taking Freshman Physics; then Biology in their sophomore year followed by Chemistry in their junior year. All three of these courses are offered at various levels H, CPA, and CP. As seniors, students are offered a wide variety of either full-year or half-year electives which are also offered at the various levels of study.

Laboratory sciences require many precautions in order to ensure the safety of the students in a laboratory setting. Any inappropriate behavior by a student in a laboratory class will result in serious and immediate disciplinary action.

Lower School Program

Freshman Physics is a physical science course specifically designed for 9th grade students beginning their High School science curriculum. This course provides an in-depth investigation of matter and energy. Laboratory investigations, demonstrations, and discussions include the basic physical concepts in motion and forces, conservation of energy and momentum, thermodynamics (heat and heat transfer), waves, and electromagnetism. This program includes substantial hands-on laboratory experiences, which allow students to make observations, raise questions, and formulate hypotheses; design and conduct scientific investigations; analyze and interpret results of those investigations; and communicate and apply their findings. This course boosts students' mathematical skills as they construct and use tables and graphs to interpret data sets, solve simple algebraic equations, perform basic statistical procedures to analyze data, convert units, use scientific notation, determine the correct number of significant figures, and determine percent error from experimental and accepted values. **All Freshman Physics students will take the Introductory Physics MCAS in June of their freshman year.**

The level of Freshman Science will align with your math choice.

- **Honors Freshman Physics** students will also take Honors Geometry
- **CPA Freshman Physics** students will take H Geometry, CPA Geometry, H Algebra 1 or CPA Algebra 1
- **CP Freshman Physics** students will take CP Algebra 1
- **Topics in Freshman Physics** will take Fundamentals of Algebra 1

Freshman Physics (H, Grade 9) 5 credits

The **H level** requires that students have a solid mathematical and science background. Students will participate in individual inquiry experimentation and analytical problem solving.

Freshman Physics (CPA, Grade 9) 5 credits

The **CPA level** requires a good mathematics and science background.

Freshman Physics (CP, Grade 9) 5 credits

The **CP level** course is taught from a more conceptual view with the amount and level of mathematics required minimized.

Topics in Freshman Physics (CP, Grade 9) 5 credits

This course will begin a two-year sequence in science required for graduation, it is also designed to teach the Massachusetts State Framework in Physics. This course provides an investigation of matter and energy. Laboratory investigations, demonstrations, and discussions include the basic physical concepts in motion and forces, conservation of energy and momentum, thermodynamics (heat and heat transfer), waves, and electromagnetism. This program includes substantial hands-on laboratory experiences, which allow students to make observations, raise questions, and formulate hypotheses; design and conduct scientific investigations; analyze and interpret the results of those investigations; and communicate and apply their findings. This course boosts students' mathematical skills as they construct and use tables and graphs to interpret data sets, solve simple algebraic equations, perform basic statistical procedures to analyze data, convert units, use scientific notation, determine the correct number of significant figures, and determine the percent error from experimental and accepted values. Multiple instructional strategies will be explored to help students understand the concepts of Physics. Mathematical applications of physics will be minimized.

Biology (H, Grade 10) 5 credits

Honors Biology requires students to have exceptional reading comprehension skills and a strong mathematics background. This course is a study of biology as an inquiry into life with emphasis on the laboratory approach. The investigative processes of science are used to develop an in-depth understanding of the principles of biology from the standpoints of unity of pattern, diversity of organisms, and the continuity of life. Students will participate in individual inquiry experimentation and analytical problem solving.

Biology (CPA, Grade 10) 5 credits

CPA Biology requires students to have strong reading comprehension and problem-solving skills. This laboratory-based class includes a study of the methods of science as a process of inquiry, including the concepts of cellular structure and function, molecular genetics, heredity, taxonomy, and evolution.

Biology (CP Grade 10) 5 credits

This laboratory-based course includes a study of the methods of science as a process of inquiry by including the concepts of cellular structure and function, molecular genetics, heredity, taxonomy, and evolution. More curricular reinforcement is given as students work to understand the difficult vocabulary and concepts of biology.

Topics in Biology (CP, Grade 10) 5 credits

This laboratory-based course includes a study of the methods of science as a process of inquiry by including the concepts of cellular structure and function, molecular genetics, heredity, taxonomy, and evolution. More curricular reinforcement is given as students work to understand the difficult vocabulary and concepts of biology. **The curriculum in this class is designed specifically to prepare students for the Biology MCAS test.**

Lower School/Upper School Options

Practical Science (Grades 9-12) 5 credits

This course provides a general overview of various living organisms and their structures, and better exposes the student to concepts they may find on the MCAS Biology test. The areas of study include: scientific methods, analyzing experimental design, characteristics of living things, animal and plant cells and their functions, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, cell division, digestive system, ecology, and genetics.

Upper School Program

Chemistry (H, Grades 11) 5 credits

This course is an in-depth, fast-paced study of chemistry as an experimental science for the highly motivated student or science major. Major concepts such as atomic structure, bonding, reactions, gasses, acids/bases, and kinetics will be discussed in great detail in a lecture setting and then reinforced with laboratory work. Δ requirement of the class is the memorization of ions and formulas necessary for the study of chemistry. Students will participate in individual inquiry experimentation and analytical problem solving.

Chemistry (CPA, Grades 11) 5 credits

This course is an in-depth study of chemistry as an experimental science for the college bound student. Major concepts such as atomic structure, bonding, reactions, gasses, and acids/bases are covered. Course work as well as laboratory work will be performed to reinforce key concepts to better the students' understanding. Over the course of the year, skills and techniques in handling materials, apparatus, and concepts will be developed. Δ requirement of the class is the memorization of ions and formulas necessary for the study of chemistry.

Chemistry (CP, Grades 11) 5 credits

This CP level course is taught from a more conceptual view of chemistry with the amount and level of mathematics required minimized. Core topics are taught using real-world examples and applications to put the importance of chemistry into perspective for the student. Major concepts such as atomic structure, bonding, reactions, gasses, and acids/bases are covered. Course work, as well as laboratory work, will be performed to reinforce key concepts to better the students' understanding. Over the course of the year, skills and techniques in handling materials, apparatus, and concepts will be developed. Emphasis is on the application of chemical concepts using labs, demonstrations, hands-on activities, and basic mathematical calculations.

Topics in Junior Physics (CP, Grade 11) 5 credits

This course is designed to teach the Massachusetts State Framework in Physics. This course provides an investigation of matter and energy. Laboratory investigations, demonstrations, and discussions include the basic physical concepts in motion and forces, conservation of energy and momentum, thermodynamics (heat and heat transfer), waves, and electromagnetism. This program includes substantial hands-on laboratory experiences, which allow students to make observations, raise questions, and formulate hypotheses; design and conduct scientific investigations; analyze and interpret the results of those investigations; and communicate and apply their findings. This course boosts students' mathematical skills as they construct and use tables and graphs to interpret data sets, solve simple algebraic equations, perform basic statistical procedures to analyze data, convert units, use scientific notation, determine the correct number of significant figures, and determine the percent error from experimental and accepted values. Multiple instructional strategies will be explored to help students understand the concepts of Physics. Mathematical applications of physics will be minimized.

Senior Science Electives

Anatomy and Physiology (H/CPA, Grade 12) 5 credits

This course is designed to give students an understanding of the basic structure and functions of the human systems. Students preparing for health-related careers and those interested in studying the principles of biology using the human species as an example will find this course valuable. Demonstrations and experiments are used to illustrate the principles and concepts of the course, including the problems of disease, nutrition, and heredity. Independent literature and electronic research is required each term. Students will dissect a sheep heart and a fetal pig.

Dual Enrollment Anatomy and Physiology (DE, Grade 12) 5 credits

This dual enrollment (DE) course, offered in partnership with Worcester State University, mirrors the curriculum of the university's Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II courses. Designed for high school students with an interest in the medical or health sciences, this comprehensive course provides an in-depth exploration of human anatomy and physiology from the molecular to the systemic level. DE A&P will study how each organ system integrates into a healthy human being. This course strives to establish a firm foundation of knowledge and study skills for you to continue to more specialized coursework in human biology. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of key bodily functions and systems, including cellular and molecular biology, tissues, and the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic and immune, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive systems. This course is designed for students interested in areas such as health studies, occupational therapy, physical therapy, exercise sciences, nursing, and pre-med. Demonstrations and hands-on lab activities will be used to illustrate the principles and concepts of the course. Several lab dissections including that of a fetal pig are a required part of the course thus attendance is required for dissections. Lab practical assessments are designed to reinforce theoretical principles covered in the course and to provide students with real-world applications of their learning.

Environmental Issues (CP, Grade 12) 2.5 credits (First semester)

This course aims to develop an understanding of environmental problems and the laws that govern these issues. Students will also study the effects of growth and development on their environment and on the quality of life, our land, air, and water resources. These problems are studied in a variety of ways in the classroom, in the laboratory, in the field, and through project work. Students who enroll in this course may not also receive credit for Environmental Science CPA.

Environmental Science (CPA, Grade 12) 5 credits

This course immerses students in the physical, biological, and earth systems sciences that shape our world to help them develop an understanding of the environment. Scientific concepts, principles, and modern science practices allow students to analyze environmental issues, both natural and human induced, and to engage in evidence-based decision-making in real-world contexts. This course will explore a variety of topics, including matter and energy transformation, properties of Earth materials, climate and weather, biodiversity, environmental systems, biomes, populations, soil, rocks, and glaciation. Classes regularly go outside for practical labs in all weather conditions. Students who enroll in this course may not also receive credit for Environmental Issues CP and Natural History of New England CP.

Natural History of New England (CP, Grade 12) 2.5 credits (Second semester)

This course is a general survey course designed to acquaint the student with the natural history of New England. This includes studies of soil and rock formation, plants, animals and the ecology of the area. Students who enroll in this course may not also receive credit for Environmental Science CPA **Note to students who plan to play sports in college: The NCAA may not accept this class as a core course requirement.**

Project Based Learning Physics (CP, Grade 12) 5 credits

Dive into the captivating world of physics and engineering through dynamic, project-based learning in this engaging course. Experience the magic of physics firsthand by conceptualizing, designing, and constructing projects that bring abstract concepts to life. Bridge the gap between theory and practice by applying your physics knowledge in quick, exciting projects. For instance, challenge yourself to engineer a contraption that safeguards an egg or water balloon from perilous drops using recycled materials, all within a single class period. Delve into ambitious, extended projects like crafting a marble roller coaster, revealing the mesmerizing interplay of kinetic and potential energy. Uncover the diverse world of engineering disciplines, including civil, mechanical, electrical, and aerospace engineering, as you tackle projects like balsa wood truss bridges, mousetrap race cars, water bottle rockets, and Arduino circuits. Expand your horizons by exploring the art of 3D computer drawing and computer programming, gaining invaluable skills for the future.

Note to students who plan to play sports in college: The NCAA may not accept this class as a core course requirement.

Senior Physics (CPA, Grade 12) 5 credits

This course builds on the science and mathematical skills obtained during the first three years of high school and will serve as a preparation for an introductory college Physics course. The goal for the course is to provide a deeper understanding of the physics concepts learned in Freshman Physics. The additional topics covered include rotational mechanics, wave theory, electricity and magnetism, optics and thermodynamics. This class should be considered by students planning to major in any math, science or engineering program. Group and individual projects are a major component of this course.

Topics in Chemistry (CP, Grade 12) 5 credits

This course provides an investigation of matter and change. Core topics are taught using real-world examples and applications to put the importance of chemistry into perspective for the student. Laboratory investigations, demonstrations, and discussions include the basic chemical concepts of matter and measurement, atomic structure, nuclear chemistry, chemical reactions and equations, bonding, gases, solutions, and acids and bases. This program includes substantial hands-on laboratory experiences, which allow students to develop skills and techniques in handling materials, apparatus, and applying concepts. These investigations will also allow students to make observations, raise questions, and formulate hypotheses; conduct scientific investigations; analyze and interpret the results of those investigations; and communicate and apply their findings. While the mathematical applications of chemistry will be minimized this course aims to boost students' mathematical skills as they construct and use tables and graphs to interpret data sets, solve simple algebraic equations, perform basic statistical procedures to analyze data, convert units, use scientific notation, determine the correct number of significant figures for measurements, and determine the percent error from experimental and accepted values. Multiple instructional strategies will be explored to help students understand the concepts of chemistry.

Note to students who plan to play sports in college: The NCAA may not accept this class as a core course requirement.

Advanced Placement Courses

Advanced Placement Biology (AP, Grade 12) 7.5 credits

Advanced Placement Biology is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course usually taken by students majoring in the sciences during their first year of college. Students who are successful in this course may have the opportunity, as college freshmen, to undertake upper-level courses in biology or to register for courses for which biology is a prerequisite; students may also fulfill a basic requirement for a college laboratory science course. AP Biology is designed to be taken by students after the successful completion of a first course in high school biology and high school chemistry. It is expected that students who take this course will sit for the AP Biology exam in May.

Advanced Placement Chemistry (AP, Grade 12) 7.5 credits

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a first year college general chemistry course and follows the College Board's AP Chemistry syllabus. This course presents a rigorous treatment of the following concepts: the nature of matter, gas laws, thermodynamics, stoichiometry, bonding, chemical kinetics, and chemical equilibrium. Laboratory activities involve a variety of techniques and methods, including precision instrumental work, as well as qualitative analysis of unknowns. Students will be required to do extensive writing, and to keep a thorough and accurate laboratory notebook. It is expected that students who take this course will sit for the AP Chemistry exam in May.

Advanced Placement Environmental Science (AP, Grade 12) 5 credits

The AP Environmental Science course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science. The goal of the course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. Students will be able to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. AP Environmental Science promotes the development of citizens who can make informed, knowledgeable decisions concerning environmental issues. AP Environmental Science is designed to be taken by students after the successful completion of a first course in high school biology and high school chemistry. It is expected that students who take this course will sit for the AP Environmental Science exam in May.

Advanced Placement Physics C: Mechanics (AP, Grade 12) 5 credits

AP[®] Physics: Mechanics is open to students who have already completed the introductory physics course freshman year and have either taken, or are currently enrolled in Honors Applied Calculus and Finite Mathematics or higher math course. This course will cover Newtonian mechanics in depth including: kinematics, Newton's laws of motion, work, energy, power, Systems of particles and linear momentum, circular motion and rotation, and oscillations and gravitation. The goal in the AP[®] Physics course is to provide an extensive, first-year college-level, calculus-based, physics education. Students exiting the course should have a strong conceptual and mathematical understanding of physics, along with well-developed skills in completing and analyzing laboratory experiments. A teacher recommendation is required. It is expected that students who take this course will sit for the AP Physics C: Mechanics exam in May.

Social Studies Program

Course	Level	Prerequisites	
		Course/Grade	Teacher Recommendation
World History	Honors	Middle School Social Studies Teacher/High School Department Head Recommendation	Required
	CPA	Middle School Social Studies Teacher/High School Department Head Recommendation	Required
Course	Level	Prerequisites	
US History I	Honors	C+ in World History Honors OR B+ in World History CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CPA	C+ in World History CPA OR B+ in World History CP	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CP	N/A	Or Teacher Recommendation
Course	Level	Prerequisites	
US History II	Honors	C+ in US History I Honors OR B+ in US History I CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CPA	C+ in US History I CPA OR B+ in US History I CP	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CP	N/A	Or Teacher Recommendation
Electives	Courses	Prerequisites	
Grade 11-12 CP	Civics for the 21 st Century CP Concepts in Economics I CP Concepts in Economics II CP	N/A	
Grade 11-12 CPA	Concepts in Economics I CPA Concepts in Economics II CPA History of Racism in America CPA Seminar: Topics in Ethics CPA US Government & Politics CPA	C+ in US History I CPA or US History II CPA OR B+ in US History I CP or US History II CP OR Teacher Recommendation	
Grade 11 - 12 Honors	History of Racism in America Honors Concepts in Economics Honors	C- in AP US History OR C+ in US History I Honors or US History II Honors OR B+ in US History I CPA or US History II CPA OR Teacher Recommendation	
Electives	Courses	Prerequisites	
Grade 12 Only	Human Behavior CP Psychology I CP	N/A	
Course	Courses	Prerequisites	
Grade 12 Only	Psychology I CPA Psychology II CPA Sociology CPA	C- in AP US History or US History II Honors OR C+ in US History II CPA OR B+ in US History II CP OR Teacher Recommendation *Psychology I must be taken before Psychology II at both the CPA and Honors Levels	
Course	Courses	Prerequisites	
Grade 12 Only	Psychology I Honors Psychology II Honors	C- in AP US History OR C+ in US History II Honors OR B+ in US History II CPA OR Teacher Recommendation	
Course	Course	Prerequisites	Teacher recommendation
Grade 11 or 12	AP US History	C+ in AP World History OR B+ in US History I Honors	Or Teacher Recommendation
Grade 10 or Grade 12	AP World History	B+ in World History Honors OR A or better in World History CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
Grade 12 Only	AP Psychology	C+ in AP US History OR B+ in US History II Honors	Or Teacher Recommendation
	AP Government & Politics	C+ in AP US History OR B+ in US History II Honors	Or Teacher Recommendation
	AP Economics	C+ in AP US History OR B+ in in US History II Honors	Or Teacher Recommendation
	AP European History	C+ in AP US History OR B+ in US History II Honors	Or Teacher Recommendation

Students must earn 15 credits in Social Studies to graduate. Ten of these social studies credits must come in U.S. History (unless a student completes both AP World and AP US History).

Social Studies Sequence of Courses: Grade 9, World History 2; Grade 10, U.S. History 1; Grade 11, U.S. History 2; Grade 12, social studies electives.

Advanced Sequence: For advanced history students, an advanced history sequence is available: Grade 9, Honors World History; Grade 10, AP World History; Grade 11, AP US History; Grade 12, various Advanced Placement electives.

Social Studies Department Writing Standard

The WRHS Social Studies Department requires students in all grades and levels to demonstrate research and writing competencies at an acceptable level. Each course in the Social Studies Department will require students to successfully complete a research paper, a position paper, or a project sometime during the year.

Social Studies Description of Levels

Honors: Students at the Honors level will be expected to read scholarly documents and texts for understanding, inference, and context. They will analyze and synthesize information to reach conclusions and formulate and defend positions on a variety of topics. They will perform extensive independent work and will be expected to read and write at a consistently high level. They will write papers and essays that incorporate independent research and will complete other research projects. They will be expected to complete regular homework assignments as reinforcement and enrichment of classroom lessons. Students at the honors level receive an accelerated curriculum that will allow them to make an immediate transition to advanced college work.

College Prep - Accelerated: Students at the CPA level will be expected to read primary sources and scholarly material. They will write with coherence and organization as they create papers and essays that incorporate independent research. They will complete other research projects that involve independent work. They will be expected to complete regular homework assignments as reinforcement and enrichment of classroom lessons. Students at the CPA level will receive a solid foundation of knowledge that will allow them to make a seamless transition to a college or university.

College Prep: Students at the college prep level will be expected to read primary source material and social studies texts. They will write papers and essays that incorporate research material, and they will complete other research projects under the guidance of their teacher. They will be expected to complete regular homework assignments as reinforcement and enrichment of classroom lessons. Students at the CP level will expand their knowledge in social studies subject areas as they develop the skills necessary for success at the college level.

Lower School Program World History

World History (H, CPA; Grade 9) 5 Credits (Full year)

World History is a thematic course that introduces students to an inquiry approach to studying history in high school. Students focus on developing skills utilized by historians such as creating research questions, analyzing and organizing information from primary and secondary sources, evaluating the credibility of sources, and forming arguments supported by evidence. Students will investigate a variety of topics connected to themes including, but not limited to, nation states, exploration, imperialism, conflict, and nationalism. Additionally, students will be introduced to history from around the world and across the centuries, encompassing events that have shaped our modern world.

Lower School / Upper School Options

World History (Grades 9-12) 5 credits

This course spans the time periods from 1815 to the present and covers World Revolutions, Imperialism, World Wars, Cold War, independence movements and the world today. Emphasis will be on how world events affect our country. Class activities will include map-making, research projects and timelines.

Basic World History (Grades 9-10) 5 credits

This is an introductory course to World History. Students investigate the economic and political roots of the modern world. Students study the cause and effect relationships among several significant historical events and eras. Note to students who plan to play sports in college: The NCAA has not approved this class as a core course requirement.

United States History

United States History I (H, CPA, CP; Grade 10) 5 credits (Full year)

This course surveys major developments in American history from the Revolutionary era to the end of the 19th Century. Students will examine the historical and intellectual origins of the United States during the Revolutionary and Constitutional eras. They will study the framework of American democracy and the basic concepts of American government, such as popular sovereignty, federalism, establishment of political parties, and economic and social change. Finally, students will learn about the growth of sectional conflict leading to the Civil War, and the consequences of the Civil War through the Gilded Age. Students will read primary source documents, perform authentic research, and complete research papers and other assignments.

United States History I (Grade 10) 5 credits

This course will cover the major developments in the country's history from the first Americans and the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction. Students will study the historical significance of events in this time period as well as the basic concepts of American government and democracy. Emphasis will be on our government and how it affects our lives. Varied activities will include map-making, projects, time lines, field trips and individual reports.

Upper School Program United States History

United States History II (H, CPA, CP; Grades 11-12) 5 Credits (Full year)

In this course, which completes the two-year U.S. History cycle, students will study the historical and intellectual origins of the modern United States. Students will learn the causes and consequences of the United States' emergence on the world stage. Students will examine the influence of Progressive thought on American government and politics. The world wars and the interwar period as well as the effects these major wars had on America will be a major focus of the course. After learning about the world wars, students study the origins, ideas, and events of the Cold War and its impact both domestically and internationally. Students will probe the Civil Rights movement, Vietnam and other modern trends that have shaped America. The course will conclude with a study of 9/11 and contemporary issues and how these events have shaped the conditions in modern America. As in U.S. History 1, students will read primary source documents to improve their understanding of history, to perform authentic research, and to complete research papers and other assignments.

United States History II (Grade 11) 5 Credits

This course introduces students to the major events, movements, people, and ideas which have shaped the growth of our country from Reconstruction to the present. The objective of the class is for the student to develop an appreciation of our country while understanding its growth and development. Students will use texts, discussion, maps, and timelines in this study.

Advanced Placement United States History (AP, Grades 11-12) 5 credits (Full Year)

Using college textbooks and reading materials, students study the history of the United States from 1607 to the present; in addition, they consider changing interpretations of historical periods. This course is based on the College Board expectations:

"AP U.S. History is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university U.S. history course. In AP U.S. History students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and

processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; making historical comparisons; utilizing reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time; and developing historical arguments. The course also provides seven themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; migration and settlement; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; geography and the environment; and culture and society.” – The College Board, 2018

It is expected all students taking this class will sit for the AP U.S. History exam in May.

Full-Year Elective Courses

Advanced Placement Economics (AP, Grades 11–12) 5 credits

This course is divided into two courses – AP Macroeconomics in the first semester and AP Microeconomics in the second semester. This coincides with preparing students for the two separate AP Economics exams in May, which students are expected to take. AP Macroeconomics gives students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. This course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price determination, and also develops students’ familiarity with economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics. AP Microeconomics provides a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the larger economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets, and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy.

Advanced Placement European History (AP, Grade 12) 5 credits

In Advanced Placement European History, students will examine the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped Europe from c. 1450 to the present. Students will analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments. Students will develop a variety of historical thinking skills that will be needed in college history courses. Students who take this course are expected to take the Advanced Placement European History exam in the spring.

Advanced Placement Psychology (AP, Grade 12) 5 credits

Advanced Placement Psychology introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the methods that psychologists use in their science and practice. The content of the course includes the biological base of behavior, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, motivation and emotion, personality, and abnormal psychology. Students who take this class are expected to take the AP Psychology exam in the spring.

Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics (AP, Grade 12) 5 credits

This course gives students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. It includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific examples. It requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. politics. Topics: “Constitutional Underpinnings of U.S. Government;” Political Beliefs and Behaviors;” “Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media;” Institutions of National Government;” “Political Policy;” and “Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.” It is expected that students who take this class will take the AP U.S. Government and Politics exam in May.

Advanced Placement World History (AP, Grade 10 or Grade 12) 5 Credits

This course is a comprehensive study of World History from the beginning of civilization to the present. First semester includes the study of historical events from early civilizations to 1750; second semester includes the study of historical events from 1750 to 2000. Using college textbooks and primary and secondary sources, students study the world by an analysis of events and /or people causing change. Students must complete a required summer assignment before the class begins. Students who take this class are expected to take the AP World History exam in the spring.

Civics for the 21st Century (CP, Grades 11-12) 5 credits

In this course students will actively investigate the rights and duties of citizenship in the United States in the 21st century. The focus of this class will be on the students themselves and how they, as citizens, can affect local, state, and national governments. The course will feature hands-on activities; connections to current local, state, and national issues; and service learning.

Concepts in Economics (Honors: Grades 11-12) 5 credits

Honors Concepts in Economics is a full year course designed to provide students with a rigorous understanding of economics. The course delves into the complexities of economic theories, offering students the opportunity to explore both classical and contemporary economic models. Students will develop a comprehensive understanding of past and current economic issues. Rotating topic selections include: market structures, globalization and trade, fiscal and monetary policy, income inequality, behavioral theory, as well as development and environmental economics. By the end of the course, students will be well-prepared to navigate the intricacies of the modern economic landscape as informed citizens in a world shaped by economic forces.

Semester Elective Courses

Concepts in Economics I (CPA, CP; Grades 11-12) 2.5 credits

Throughout the fall semester, students will explore the essential economic-based concepts found in everyday adult life. Through extensive use of collaborative learning and hands-on activities, students will discover and demonstrate these concepts in class. Topics for the Fall Semester will include: Behavioral vs. Classical Economic Theory; Everyday Use of Economic Laws & Principles; Consumer Behavior and Practices, Regional Economic Development and The Economics Behind Small Business. This is a very interactive and project-based elective for juniors and seniors. Students may elect to continue this course in the spring semester with Concepts in Economics II.

Concepts in Economics II (CPA, CP; Grades 11-12) 2.5 credits

Throughout the spring semester, students will explore the essential economic-based concepts found in everyday adult life. Through extensive use of collaborative learning and hands-on activities, students will discover and demonstrate these concepts in class. The Spring Semester will explore topics such as: The 2008 Real Estate Collapse & Housing Market; Personal Budgeting for Young Adults; Essential Lessons on Taxation & Insurance; Popular Government Economic Policies; and Current Economic Issues in the U.S. (ex. environmental, minimum wage, gender equity, trade wars). This is a very interactive and project-based elective for juniors and seniors.

History of Racism in America (CPA/Honors, Grades 11-12) 2.5 credits

The History of Racism in America is a course offered in the first and second semesters. Students in this course investigate the complex intersection of race and politics in the United States from colonial America to the present day. Engaging students with issues of identity politics, race, privilege, and ethnicity, this course emphasizes important critical reading and thinking skills. Students explore various constructions of racial identity – biological, cultural, and political – and discuss the history of shifting ideas about what race means. With a firm grasp of relevant critical and cultural theory, students analyze the role of race and racial politics throughout American History. This elective is offered to juniors and seniors at the CPA and Honors levels (students choosing both levels will be in the same class).

Human Behavior (CP; Grade 12) 2.5 credits (Students may not take Human Behavior along with Psychology 2 and/or Sociology)

This course explores topics in both psychology and sociology. Possible topics of exploration include socialization, human development, culture, consciousness, and gender. This course is open for students who took Psychology I as well as for students who have not studied psychology.

Psychology I: Study of Human Behavior (H, CPA, CP; Grade 12 only) 2.5 credits

This course is an introduction to the field of psychology. Students study differing psychological approaches, theories, and theorists. Students investigate such issues as the biological basis of behavior, sensation and perception, principles of learning, and theories of human development. Each student examines herself or himself through the theories of Pavlov, Skinner, Freud, Erickson and other theorists in an attempt to answer the question 'Who Am I?' The activities, materials and requirements will vary according to level. Honors level students will complete a comprehensive research project.

Psychology II: Study of Exceptional Persons (H, CPA; Grade 12 only) 2.5 credits (Prerequisite: Psychology 1)

This course allows students to continue their study of psychology. Students extend their study of human development and are introduced to personality theory. Additional possible topics to be studied include altered states of consciousness, motivation theory and psychological disorders. The activities, materials and requirements will vary according to level. Honors level students will complete a comprehensive research project.

Social Studies Seminar: Topics in Ethics (CPA, Grades 11-12) 2.5 credits

Ethics deals with examining right from wrong, good from bad. This course will engage students in exploring and measuring their own ethical value system in the context of studying historical and contemporary problems. During debates, discussions, research-based essays, and other critical thinking activities, students will explore the nature of good and evil, vice and virtue, truth and deceit.

Sociology (CPA; Grade 12) 2.5 credits

Students study society at large and their participation in it. Topics included growing up in other cultures, causes of alienation, crime and deviance, sex and gender, race and ethnicity, effects of social stratification, socialization, and institutions of society on the individual. Students use a wide variety of materials and engage in independent and group research.

U.S. Government and Politics (CPA, Grades 11 & 12) 2.5 credits

This course provides a framework for students to understand the nature and importance of responsible civic participation and to learn the rights and responsibilities of individuals in a constitutional democracy. Students will examine the history of political philosophies that evolved into today's political and legal systems and will explore this country's constitutional structure and the processes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches at the national, state, and local levels. Finally, students will explore their ability to influence policies and decisions as individuals and in groups and will develop the knowledge and inquiry skills to help them understand, preserve, and improve our constitutional democracy.

STEP Program

Community Life Skills I & II (Grades 9-12 STEP 1 Program)

These community life skills courses are designed for our students in our STEP 1 Program Grades 9 - 12 and teach students activities of daily living and social skills needed to live independently. Activities and instruction offer students the opportunity to develop self-confidence by becoming familiar with the community and its services and resources. There will be field trips and hands-on experiences to reinforce the classroom subject matter. Personal hygiene, shopping, food preparation, transportation, use of community services, health and wellness, safety, and appropriate social behavior are examples of the topics that will be covered. Topics will be chosen and emphasized based on students' needs. Instruction will be community based and emphasize hands-on learning experiences. (Instruction will be differentiated based on level of student need)

Community Life Skills III & IV (STEP 2 Program)

These community life skills courses are designed for our students in our STEP 2 Transition Program and teach students activities of daily living and social skills needed to live independently. Activities and instruction offer students the opportunity to develop self-confidence by becoming familiar with the community and its services and resources. There will be field trips and hands-on experiences to reinforce the classroom subject matter. Personal hygiene, shopping, food preparation, transportation, use of community services, health and wellness, safety, and appropriate social behavior are examples of the topics that will be covered. Topics will be chosen and emphasized based on students' needs. Instruction will be community based and emphasize hands-on learning experiences. (Instruction will be differentiated based on level of student need)

Functional Academics (Grades 9-12 & Transition Program)

Individualized and small group instruction is used to develop functional skills in the areas of reading, math, language arts, current events, and practical science. Reading comprehension, basic writing skills, and functional math (time, money, making change, etc.) are emphasized to develop students' practical skills. Topics dealing with current events, world issues, and everyday science will be integrated into the lessons. Instruction will be differentiated based on grade. Note to students who plan to play sports in college: The NCAA has not approved this class as a core course requirement.

Transition Seminar (Grades 11 and 12)

This is an elective class for students identified as needing assistance with postsecondary planning and the transition process. This class provides an overview of the postsecondary school opportunities available: including college, vocational/technical training, independent life skills, employment, and community participation with a focus on self-advocacy and self-determination skills. For some students, high school transition planning may include connecting with the adult service agencies that may provide the student with services when he or she graduates or turns 22 years of age. This class is intended to support individual students' visions as documented through transition assessments.

Transition Prep I & II (Grades 9 - 12)

The Transition Prep 1 & 2 courses provide individualized instruction in pre-employment, leisure, and recreation to develop foundational skills needed to transition into adult life. The pre-vocational aspect of the program provides instruction relevant to employment, including participation in work-related activities within the school setting. Continuous assessment will measure current skill sets, strengths, and areas for improvement while considering student preferences. The leisure and recreational aspect of the program provides instruction related to building peer and community relationships, and provides opportunities for self-advocacy, personal growth and development. Students will learn to identify preferences and reflect on personal hobbies and passions.

Transition Prep III & IV (STEP 2 Transition Program)

After having completed Transition 1 & 2 courses, students will have a better idea of next steps and required skills as they transition to the next phase of adulthood. This course is designed to meet individual student needs through direct instruction and practice in a variety of contexts that align with IEP vision and transition plans. Students will participate in activities that will help them be contributing members of their communities, including volunteering, interning, and leisure and recreational activities both in the school and community settings.

The vocational aspect of the program provides students with training and support necessary for gainful employment. Students will complete work related activities within the school setting to provide increased awareness of individual strengths, challenges, and interests. Students will work with support staff to build work related skills and independence within these community sites. They will be required to consistently assess and reflect on their own preferences and performance to make sure that each placement is meeting their individual needs. The leisure and recreational aspect of the program provides instruction related to building peer and community relationships, and provides opportunities for self-advocacy, personal growth and development, with a focus on increased community involvement. Community opportunities will be decided based on individual student vision and transition planning.

Various Unified Courses

These courses are designed to provide an inclusive learning environment where students with and without disabilities learn together as equal partners. Courses will follow the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and are co-taught by both general education and special education teachers. Unified courses embrace the principles of inclusion and peer learning, providing opportunities for all students to contribute their unique perspectives and abilities. This structure not only supports the academic goals of the curriculum, but promotes social development and a deeper understanding of the curriculum. .

Current course offerings include: Civics for the 21st Century, Health, Human Behavior, Personal Finance, Psychology, Sports & Fitness, US History, and World History.

Therapeutic Learning Center (TLC)

The Therapeutic Learning Center was established to offer selected students an opportunity to reach their full academic potential in a setting that addresses their behavioral, social, emotional, and/or specific learning needs and challenges. This therapeutic program offers smaller class sizes with individualized instruction and individual/group counseling services with crisis intervention. Students are motivated through a variety of interventions within a strength-based model aimed at promoting personal growth and responsibility, healthy social functioning, and a positive sense of community. Within a smaller supportive setting, students in the TLC Program are better able to prepare for the challenges they face, both academically and socially, empowering them to achieve the ultimate goal of graduation at WRHS.

English 9/10 (CP, Grades 9-10) 5 credits

This course introduces students to a variety of informal, formal and creative writing experiences in a small group setting. Students will read and study the characteristics of major literary genres (novel, poetry, non-fiction and short stories) and will learn to respond to these readings through analytical writing. This course also stresses the importance of writing as a means of both creative and purposeful expression. Standard English usage and vocabulary development are taught in conjunction with both reading and writing. Strength based individual instruction allows students to access knowledge through a variety of methods and increases the chance for student success in English.

English 11/12 (CP, Grades 11-12) 5 credits

This course is designed to expose students to the works of contemporary American authors and use literature to think reflectively on the human connection within relationships, community and heritage. This course also stresses writing as a means of both creative and purposeful expression. Students are expected to participate in small group discussion, respond to several short writing assignments as well as learn the process of writing a longer research paper. Strength based individual instruction allows students to access knowledge through a variety of methods and increases the chance for student success in English.

World History (CP, Grade 9) 5 credits (Full year)

In World History 2, students study the rise of the nation state in Europe, the French Revolution, and the economic and political roots of the modern world. They study the origins and consequences of the Industrial revolution, 19th – century political reform in Western Europe, and imperialism in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. They will examine the causes and consequences of the great military and economic events of the past century, including World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, and the Russian and Chinese Revolutions. Students will also study the rise of nationalism and the continuing persistence of political, ethnic, and religious conflict in many parts of the world.

United States History I (CP, Grade 10) 5 credits

This course surveys major developments in the country's history from the Revolutionary era through Reconstruction (1763-1877). Students will examine the historical and intellectual origins of the United States during the Revolutionary and Constitutional eras. They will study the basic framework of American democracy and the basic concepts of American government such as popular sovereignty, federalism, establishment of political parties, and economic and social change. Finally, students will learn about the growth of sectional conflict, how sectional conflict led to the Civil War, and the consequences of the Civil War through Reconstruction. Students will read primary source documents as ways to improve their understanding of history, to perform authentic research, and to complete research projects and other assignments.

United States History II (CP, Grade 11) 5 credits

This course surveys United States history from 1877 to the present. Students will examine the evolution of American society, politics, and foreign affairs, as the United States becomes a world power in the 20th century. Students will examine issues such as the Gilded Age, the Progressive Period, Imperialism, World War I, The Roaring Twenties, the Depression, the New Deal, World War II, the Cold War, 1950's America, the Turbulent '60's, Vietnam, Watergate, the Reagan Revolution, and the Global America of today. Students will read textbooks; primary and secondary source documents, and other media. Students will gain further understanding of history by performing research, completing projects and other assignments.

Learning Strategies (Grades 9-12) (Both semesters. Credit will vary depending on the program established.)

This course provides an extensive review of the essential study skills needed for success in high school. In this course, students will be taught organizational skills for independent work completion, time planning, various reading techniques appropriate for different disciplines and textbooks, note taking from texts and in lectures, active listening skills, memory enhancing skills, test preparation skills, writing skills, vocabulary building, and library research skills. Individual remedial compensatory strategies are emphasized to help a student understand his/her learning style and how it impacts on individual teaching styles. Students are encouraged to negotiate their classroom accommodation needs individually and independently, based on their knowledge of their learning style.

Counseling Component (Grades 9-12) (non-credit program/weekly pullouts)

Students participate in individual and/or group counseling on a weekly basis as part of the services offered to all students in the Transitional Learning Center program. Goals of the Group Counseling:

- To enhance coping skills, resilience, and self-regulation.
- To increase social, emotional, and interpersonal strength and clarity.
- To increase relaxation, well-being, and overall general health.
- To support self-appreciation, esteem, and confidence.
- To increase the ability to concentrate and be mindfully present (focused).
- To ultimately manage in day-to-day academic life with greater success

World Languages Program

Incoming Grade 9

Course	Level	Prerequisites	
		Placement Test/Other	Department Head/ Teacher Recommendation
French I Spanish I	Honors	80 - 83	Required
	CPA	70 - 79	Required
	CP	69 or lower	Required
French I: Vocabulary & Culture OR Spanish I Vocabulary & Culture	Basic	Documented language-based learning disability	Required
Course	Level	Prerequisites	
		Placement Test/Other	Department Head/ Teacher Recommendation
French II German II Spanish II	Honors	88 or higher	Required
	CPA	84 - 87	Required

Grades 10, 11, and 12

Course	Level	Prerequisites	
		Grade/Other	Department Head/Teacher Recommendation
French II Spanish II	Honors	85 or better in Level I Honors OR 90 or above in Level I CPA	Required
	CPA	70 or better in Level I CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CP	Successful completion of Level I CP OR Grade of 60 - 69 in Level I CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
Spanish II	Practical	Successful completion of Spanish I Basic. Documented language-based learning disability.	Required
Course	Level	Prerequisites	
		Course/Grade	Department Head/Teacher Recommendation
French III	Honors	85 or better in Level II Honors OR 90 or better in Level 2 CPA	Required
	CPA	70 or better in Level II CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
German III Spanish III	CP	Successful completion of Level II CP OR Grade of 60 - 69 in Level II CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
Course	Level	Prerequisites	
		Course/Grade	Department Head/Teacher Recommendation
French IV German IV Spanish IV	Honors	85 or better in Level III Honors OR 90 or better in Level III CPA	Required
	CPA	70 or better in Level III CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
	CP	Successful completion of Level III CP OR Grade of 60-69 in Level III CPA	Or Teacher Recommendation
Course	Level	Prerequisites	
		Course/Grade	Department Head/Teacher Recommendation
French V German V Spanish V	Honors (German Only)	85 or better in Level IV Honors OR 90 or better in Level IV CPA	Required
	CPA	70 or better in Level IV CPA	or Teacher Recommendation

Course	Level	Prerequisites	
		Course/Grade	Department Head/Teacher Recommendation
AP French Lang. and Culture AP Spanish Lang. and Culture	Advanced Placement	93 or better in Level III Honors OR 85 or better in Level IV Honors OR 87 or better in Level IV CPA	Required
AP Spanish Lit. And Culture	Advanced Placement	85 or better in AP Spanish Language and Culture	Required

The World Languages curriculum at Wachusett Regional High School supports communicative proficiency, based upon the development of the four language skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking as well as cultural awareness. The Wachusett District goals are as follows:

- Students pursue proficiency in another language so that they may achieve purposeful and meaningful communication
- Students develop an understanding of another culture that supports their positive interaction with diverse people.
- Students understand the commonalities of language learning.
- Students experience language learning that encourages spontaneity, risk-taking, and personal growth.
- Students develop the language skills essential to understanding authentic materials such as newspapers, film, television, magazines, etc.

The World Languages Programs offer students the opportunity to complete 5 years of study in French, German and Spanish. All students are required to complete 10 credits in world languages; students must successfully complete two consecutive years in the same World Languages. Students who participate in the Wachusett Pathways Program and successfully complete two years of a Pathways major do not have to meet the two-year World Languages requirement. The completion of 2 years of the same world language satisfies the minimal requirement for entrance to a state college or university in Massachusetts. It should be noted that some institutions of higher learning require that students complete 3 years of a world language at the high school level.

Students who have passed a year of a language at the Honors level may drop to a CPA level of the language in subsequent years but may NEVER do so to a Basic or Practical level.

Important Note:

Communication is the primary focus of second language acquisition. It should be understood that the use of the target language by both teacher and student in the CP, CPA, Honors, and AP level sequence will increase with each semester of instruction from a high incidence of the target language in the first year of instruction, to extensive use in the second, to predominant use in the third, and exclusive use in fourth and beyond.

French Program

French I: Basic Vocabulary and Culture (CP) 5 credits

This course is designed for students with a documented language-based or other disability, a significant reading deficit, and/or low scores on standardized tests. Students will learn basic vocabulary and structures within the context of a variety of topics as well as the customs and cultures of French-speaking countries. Each topic will be presented in several modalities.

French I (CPA, CP) 5 credits

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of the French language and culture. Students will learn to communicate using basic grammatical structures and vocabulary in the context of everyday situations. They will engage in a variety of listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural activities to support the development of their communicative skills, with the focus being on listening and speaking.

French I (H) 5 credits

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of the French language and culture at an accelerated pace. Students will learn to communicate in French using grammatical structures and vocabulary in the context of

everyday situations. They will also engage in a variety of listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural activities to support the development of their communicative skills.

French II (CPA, CP) 5 credits

Students will continue to learn to communicate in French using more complex structures and extensive vocabulary in the context of a wider variety of situations. Although the focus on listening and speaking will continue, a greater emphasis will be placed on the development of reading comprehension and writing skills. Students will continue learning important cultural aspects from various French-speaking countries.

French II (H) 5 credits

In this accelerated beginner course, students will learn to use more complex structures and more extensive vocabulary in a wider variety of situations. There will be a greater emphasis on the skills of reading and writing. Students will develop an awareness of Francophone cultures.

French III (CPA/CP) 5 credits

This intermediate level course is designed to meet the requirements of the five framework standards: communication, connections, cultures, comparisons, and communities. Using a variety of materials, including legends, children's stories, and selected authentic short prose, students will refine their speaking and writing skills, their reading comprehension skills, and their listening comprehension skills.

French III (H) 5 credits

In this advanced intermediate level course, students will read authentic texts and refine their listening skills. Students will further develop their writing skills and focus on the interpretation of texts with attention to the use of complex tenses.

French IV (CPA/CP) 5 credits

Students will continue to refine the four communicative skills while studying the following topics: daily life, French history, youth culture, social activism, philosophy, and fine arts. Authentic texts and media/technology resources will be used to further the study of contemporary French culture. Students will continue to acquire essential vocabulary and review French grammatical structures.

French IV (H) 5 credits

In this advanced pre-AP course, students will continue to refine their communication skills with audiotapes, realia and a review of French grammatical structure. Authentic texts and media/technology resources will be used to further the study of contemporary French culture.

French V (CPA) 5 credits

In this advanced course, students will focus on Francophone culture and language through the study of current events, literature, film, music and art. Students will have the opportunity to explore the historic and cultural influence of the French in North America, in particular Quebec, New Brunswick and Louisiana. Readings: local legends and magazine articles. Audio: interviews with local writers, artists and activists.

Advanced Placement French Language and Culture 5 credits

This class is designed to prepare students for the AP French Language Exam, which all students are expected to take in May. The course will focus on extemporaneous speech, listening comprehension of extended discourse, essay writing using complex linguistic structures and reading of contemporary authentic texts of different genres. Students who take this course are expected to sit for the AP French Language exam in May. Audiotape: AP French audio exercises. Selected literary and audio materials.

German Program

German II (CPA) 5 credits

Students will learn to use more complex structures and extensive vocabulary in more varied situations. Although the focus on listening and speaking skills will continue, there will now be more emphasis on reading and writing than in German 1.

German II (H) 5 credits

Students will learn to use complex structures and broaden their vocabulary in German to fit more varied situations. Students will be reading authentic German texts and will further develop their writing skills.

German III (CPA/CP) 5 credits

At this intermediate level, students will develop their reading and writing skills in German while continuing to improve their listening and speaking. Authentic German texts will include topics of most recent historical and cultural interest. This course places a greater emphasis on developing students' writing skills.

German III (H) 5 credits

In this accelerated intermediate level course, students will continue to read authentic texts to further develop their reading skills, as well as their writing skills, refine their listening skills with the audio tapes and their speaking skills in class discussions. Authentic German texts will include topics of most recent historical and cultural relevance. This course places a greater emphasis on developing students' writing skills. It also refines students' listening skills with authentic audio materials.

German IV (CPA/H) 5 credits

This course is designed to further improve students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills while increasing their awareness of aspects of contemporary culture, language and literature. This course also has a strong focus on developing subject-related vocabulary and language skills which will prepare students to continue their studies in German.

German V (CPA/H) 5 credits

In this class students will advance their study of the German language. They will develop their communicative skills through the study of the history and culture of Germany in the 20th and 21st centuries. A thematic approach will be taken as students study modern German culture.

Spanish Program

Spanish I: Basic Vocabulary and Culture (CP) 5 credits

This course is designed for students with a documented language-based or other disability, a significant reading deficit, and/or low scores on standardized tests. Students will learn basic vocabulary and structures within the context of a variety of topics as well as the customs and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Each topic will be presented in several modalities.

Spanish I (CPA, CP) 5 credits

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of the Spanish language and culture. Students will learn to communicate using basic grammatical structures and vocabulary in the context of everyday situations. They will engage in a variety of listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural activities to support the development of their communicative skills, with the focus being on listening and speaking.

Spanish I (H) 5 credits

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of the Spanish language and culture at an accelerated pace. Students will learn to communicate in Spanish using grammatical structures and vocabulary in the context of everyday situations. They will engage in a variety of listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural activities to support the development of their communicative skills, with the focus being on listening and speaking.

Spanish II: Practical Vocabulary and Culture (CP) 5 credits

This course is designed for students with a documented language-based learning disability. Students will learn practical vocabulary and related customs for a variety of situations most commonly found in daily interactions.

Spanish II (CPA,CP) 5 credits

Students will continue to learn to communicate in Spanish using more complex structures and extensive vocabulary in the context of a wider variety of situations. Although the focus on listening and speaking will continue, a greater emphasis will be placed on the development of reading comprehension and writing skills. Students will continue learning important cultural aspects from various Spanish-speaking countries.

Spanish II (H) 5 credits

In this accelerated course, students will learn to use complex structures and extensive vocabulary in more varied situations. They will continue building their communicative skills by engaging in a wide variety of listening, reading, speaking, writing, and cultural activities

Spanish III (CPA/CP) 5 credits

This intermediate level course is designed to meet the requirements of the five framework standards: communication, connections, cultures, comparisons, and communities. Using a variety of materials, including legends, children's stories, and selected authentic short prose, students will refine their speaking and writing skills, their reading comprehension skills, and their listening comprehension skills. Students will continue learning important cultural aspects from various Spanish-speaking countries.

Spanish III (H) 5 credits

At this intermediate level, students will read authentic texts and refine their listening skills. Students will further develop their speaking skills while increasing their writing skills with attention to the use of complex tenses and the interpretation of texts.

Spanish IV (CPA/CP) 5 credits

Students will continue to polish their communicative skills as they explore the origins of Hispanic cultures, and Hispanic literature and art.

Spanish IV (H) 5 credits

This fast-paced course is designed for students who are planning to continue their studies of Spanish at the AP level. Students will continue to polish their communicative skills as they explore the origins of Hispanic cultures, and Hispanic literature and art.

Spanish V (CPA) 5 credits

This course will focus on culture and language as represented in contemporary Latin American and Spanish film and literature. Students will read two novels in Spanish. It will discuss the history of the Southwest and explore current events in the Hispanic world. Latino life in the United States, Hispanic influences in American music and art, and Hispanic culture are highlighted. Discussions will center on immigration and assimilation issues, as Hispanic culture becomes more and more integrated into mainstream American culture.

Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture (AP) 5 credits

This class is designed to prepare students for the AP Spanish Language Exam, which all students are expected to take in May. Students who take this class are expected to take the AP exam in the spring. It will focus on extemporaneous speaking, listening comprehension of extended discourse, writing using complex linguistic structures, and reading contemporary authentic texts of different genres.

Advanced Placement Spanish Literature and Culture (AP) 5 credits

This class is offered to those students who have successfully completed the AP Spanish Language course. In this course, students will study the literature of Spain and Latin America. They will learn how to compare and contrast the themes in the literature. Students will be assigned analytical writing assignments and oral presentations on the readings, authors, and historical/literary periods. It is expected that students who take this class will sit for the AP Spanish Literature exam in May.