English Language Arts

Reading Literature & Informational Text

- Read & comprehend a variety of grade level texts of appropriate complexity with a focus on the characteristics of the different literary genres
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text & analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges & is shaped & refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of a text.
- Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, & advance the plot or develop the theme.
- Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text develops the overall effect of the text
- Determine meaning of unknown words & phrases in text
- Compare/contrast important points, elements & key details of two or more texts

Writing

- Produce clear & coherent writing in which the development, organization, & style are appropriate to task, purpose, & audience, including expository, persuasive, & narrative writing
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, interpretation, reflection, & research & cite it appropriately
- Develop & strengthen writing using the writing process

Speaking & Listening

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions
- Communicate effectively in oral presentations
- Evaluate a speaker's argument & specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons & evidence from claims that are not.

Language

- Acquire new vocabulary both from reading & from the Sadlier-Oxford Level D vocabulary program
- Use grade-level appropriate conventions in daily writing

Social Studies

Grade 9 Modern World History: Students will use the History & Social Science Practices to explore such focus questions as, "What are the connections between industrialization & imperialism?", "What does it mean to be modern?" & "Why do revolutions happen?"

Standards for History & Social Science Practice (PK-12)

1. Demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, & dispositions.
2. Develop focused questions or problem statements & conduct inquiries.
3. Organize information & data from multiple primary & secondary sources.
4. Analyze the purpose & point of view of each source; distinguish opinion from fact.
5. Evaluate the credibility, accuracy, & relevance of each source.
6. Argue or explain conclusions, using valid reasoning & evidence.
7. Determine next steps & take informed action, as appropriate.

World Languages

Many 9th grade students will continue studying level 2 of the language they selected in 7th grade - French, German, Latin, or Spanish. By the end of the year, students will be able to communicate at the Novice High through Intermediate Low proficiency level based on the ACTFL guidelines.

- Ninth graders who are new to language learning & those who choose to start a different language in high school may choose from a level 1 course of French, German, Latin, Mandarin or Spanish. These students are expected to reach the Novice Mid proficiency level in all domains by the end of their level 1 course.
- In all level 1 & 2 language courses, except Latin, students will develop skills in all 5 language domains: interpersonal writing & speaking, interpretive listening & reading, & intercultural communication. Latin students will focus on developing their skills in interpretive reading & cultural competency.

Math

Mathematical Practices

Mathematics at Westford Academy progresses through Massachusetts State Standards. Specific grade prerequisites as well as scope & sequences for each course can be found on the mathematics page of the Westford Academy website. A strong mathematical foundation & disciplined work habits are critical to success in sequential mathematics classes. For these reasons, students will be recommended to take the level deemed appropriate by their math teacher. All six standards of mathematical practices are embedded throughout the curriculum daily. In each term some practices are emphasized according to the content/context of the mathematics.

Course Options: based upon prerequisites & recommendations
Mathematics: Algebra 1 or Geometry
Computer Science: Video Game Programming, Exploring Computer Science (Parts A & B)

Teacher recommendations for Honors & AP courses are based upon "Characteristics of a Successful Student" which can be found on the math website. An overview of the Westford Academy Mathematics Course Sequence can be found here. An overview of the Computer Science Course sequence can be found here.

Science & Engineering/Technology

Westford Academy presents a broad science & engineering program designed to develop an awareness & appreciation of the extent of science & its influence on the Earth, & human well being. All courses are laboratory classes & the sequence of courses offered will carry the student through the various phases of science techniques & content. As the student develops a logical approach to problem solving, the aim of the science program is to have each student become a scientifically educated citizen & a lifelong learner. The program is aligned with the Massachusetts Science Frameworks & satisfies the requirements for post high school training in various science fields whether it be medical, engineering, or liberal arts.

Students typically enroll in a biology course in ninth grade. The options for biology include: CP Biology or Honors Biology. Freshman can also choose to enroll in a second science class, Intro to Engineering. The course students will take is based upon prerequisites & recommendations. More information can be found on the Science & Engineering Technology Course Composites page as well as the Science Course Sequence page. The biology course at Westford Academy will cover the following concepts.

- Introduction to Biology
- Structure of Matter
- Cell Biology
- Organ Systems
- Cell Cycle & Protein Synthesis
- Heredity
- Evolution
- Ecology

Business / DECA

The Business Department offers a curriculum that facilitates an academic & practical understanding of the scope, function, & nature of business in a free-market society. Course content is supplemented with the study of real-world business examples, using the case study method & in-class discussions on relevant business news articles. Our goal is to provide a well-rounded educational experience that will not only prepare our students for college level business courses, but also to prepare them to become productive citizens. The DECA Business Club prepares emerging leaders & entrepreneurs in the areas of marketing, finance, hospitality, & management in high schools & colleges around the globe. DECA's competitive events directly contribute to every student being college & career ready when they graduate Westford Academy by focusing them on being academically prepared, community oriented, professionally responsible & experienced leaders. Westford Academy's DECA club is for students (grades 9-12) who have an interest in the business field or want to better prepare

themselves for college or career after high school. Our members compete in a program that uses interviews, tests, role plays, & written projects to evaluate their professional skills. WA DECA provides its members with a unique, comprehensive, & time-tested Training Program, which offers a library of online resources, Training Classes & one-on-one instruction are available & adaptable to the students' varied schedules, & practice presentation sessions with a judge all designed to ready the WA members for competition. Members have an opportunity to compete at three qualifying levels (Districts, States, & Internationals) as either individuals or in teams of 2 or 3.

Health & Physical Education

The Health & Physical Education Program integrates various aspects of wellbeing throughout the K-12 curriculum, directly impacting a student's health & physical literacy. SHAPE America defines health & physical literacy as follows:

- Health Literacy: An individual's capacity to access information, resources & services necessary to maintaining & promoting health.
- Physical Literacy: An individual's ability, confidence & desire to be physically active for life.

Health Education

- Practice effective communication
- Analyze factors that encourage drug use
- Examine personal goals & identify strategies that improve goal achievement
- Identify how food choices are influenced by availability, individual & family preferences, media, & background, & identify healthy foods within various social groups
- Compare reproductive systems in relationship to developmental changes, pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, & contraception, including abstinence
- Apply the six-step decision making process to life situations
- Define family types as well as explore challenges & supports for families
- Identify characteristics of healthy relationships (i.e. love relationships, companionship, emotional intimacy)
- Cite the means of transmission of different communicable diseases & be aware of commonly used approaches to prevent transmission
- Examine risk factors & identify behaviors that are associated with abusive relationships
- Explore the physical, financial, social, & psychological costs of addiction
- Examine the positive & negative influences that family, friends, media, & society, as well as personal experiences have on values & societal norms.

Physical Education

Basics of Kinesiology in Physical Education

- Develop an understanding of the categorizations of games (i.e. target, net & wall, invasion, striking & fielding, & tagging games) explore fitness & individual pursuits.
- Students will build upon previous Physical Education experiences with the intent of further developing their physical literacy skills.

Visual & Performing Arts

Westford Public Schools Visual & Performing Arts education engages every child as a life-long learner through examination, interpretation, & performance. Students analyze & create all of the emotional, cultural, logical, symbolic, intuitive & physical aspects embodied in the arts to understand & share its beauty with their communities.

Our curriculum follows the Massachusetts Department of Education 2019 Curriculum Frameworks & adheres to the following criteria:

Guiding Principles for an Effective Arts Education

Standards for Artistic Practice

Please click here to see our Department offerings in the areas of Music, Visual Art & Theater Arts at Westford Academy.

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Benchmarks

Grade 9

WESTFORD ACADEMY

"Shaping the future one child at a time"

Visit our website at: www.westfordk12.us