English Language Arts

Reading Literature and Informational Text

- Read and comprehend a variety of grade level texts from world literature of appropriate complexity
- Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of a text
- Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact
- Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a text
- Determine meaning of unknown words and phrases and analyze the impact of specific words or rhetorical patterns
- Compare/contrast important points, elements and key details of two or more texts

Writing

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

Speaking and Listening

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

Language

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

Social Studies

Grades 11 & 12: Electives in Social Studies: In grades 11 & 12, students apply the History & Social Science Practices through their participation in various electives. A variety of electives are available such as Psychology, Criminal Minds, Economics and American Government. These courses are available at a variety of levels; College Prep, Honors and Advanced Placement. See Program of Studies for complete details.

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

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

World Languages

- Students may take level 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5/AP of a language
- Level 1 students will be working towards communicating at the Novice Mid proficiency level based on the ACTFL guidelines.
- Level 2 students will be working toward communicating at the Novice High through Intermediate low proficiency level
- Level 3 students will be working toward communicating at the Intermediate low through Intermediate Mid proficiency level
- Level 4 students will be working toward communicating at the Intermediate mid through Intermediate high proficiency level
- Level 5 and AP students will be working toward communicating at the Intermediate high through Advanced low proficiency level. Seniors who achieve this proficiency level may be eligible to receive the Seal of Biliteracy or the Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction upon graduation.
- In all level 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 language courses, except Latin, students will develop skills in 5 domains: interpersonal writing and speaking, interpretive listening and reading, and intercultural communication. Latin students will focus on developing their skills in interpretive reading and cultural competency.

Math

Mathematical Practices

Mathematics at Westford Academy progresses through Massachusetts State Standards. Specific grade prerequisites as well as scope and sequences for each course can be found on the mathematics page of the Westford Academy website. A strong mathematical foundation and 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 and recommendations

Mathematics: Trig and Advanced Algebra, Trig and Pre-Calculus, Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (AQR), Statistics, AP Statistics, Intro to Calculus, Honors Calculus, AP Calculus (AB and BC)

Computer Science: Video Game Programming, Exploring Computer Science (Parts A and B), Honors Java Programming, AP Computer Science A

Teacher recommendations for Honors and 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 and engineering program designed to develop an awareness and appreciation of the extent of science and its influence on the Earth, and human's well being. All courses are laboratory classes and the sequence of courses offered will carry the student through the various phases of science techniques and 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 and a lifelong learner. The program is aligned with the Massachusetts Science Frameworks and satisfies the requirements for post high school training in various science fields whether it be medical, engineering, or liberal arts.

Students are required to pass three years of science (15 credits) to graduate. This graduation requirement is typically satisfied by the end of junior year. Senior year, students have a number of science electives they are able to choose from. These electives are: Honors Robotics 1 and 2, CP Robotics 1 and 2, Mechanical Engineering, Environmental Science, Anatomy and Physiology, Marine Biology, Forensic Biotechnology, AP Environmental Science, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, Honors Anatomy and Physiology, and Honors Marine Biology. The course students will take is based upon prerequisites and recommendations.More information can be found on the Science and Engineering Technology Course Composites page as well as the Science Course Sequence page.

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

Child Development

- Describe the consequences of teen parenting and be aware of the options available to pregnant teens
- Acquire the basic knowledge of the reproductive system, pregnancy and childbirth
- Understand the social, emotional and physical developmental stages of a child from infancy through the school age years.
- Understand the growth and development expectations of the newborn to preschool-aged child

Nutrition & Culinary Consumer Education

- Develop an understanding of food preparation techniques
- Plan and prepare basic nutritious meals
- Assist in value clarification and decision making in relation to personal food choices with an emphasis on healthy alternatives in daily life
- Develop laboratory, writing and critical reasoning skills through measuring, recording and graphing data, predicting and evaluating laboratory results and writing laboratory reports.
- Understand the financial implications of certain food choices through creating budgets
- Analyze nutritional content of foods

Senior Health Seminar

- Students will gain the knowledge and skills to select a diet that supports health and reduces the risk of illness and future chronic diseases.
- Students will acquire knowledge about emotions and physical health, the management of emotions, personality and character development, and social awareness; and will learn skills to promote self-acceptance, make decisions, and cope with stress, including suicide prevention.
- Students will acquire the knowledge and skills to be competent in making health-enhancing decisions regarding the use of medications and avoidance of substances, and in communicating about substance use/abuse prevention for healthier homes, schools, and communities.
- Students will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to make effective personal decisions that promote their emotional, sexual, and reproductive health.

Physical Education

Kinesiology of Team Games

- Students will develop individual and team game skills, further their understanding of rules and strategies; with a practical application during individual skill development and gameplay.

Kinesiology of Individual and Dual Games

- Students will develop the knowledge and transferable skills for successful participation in an individual or multiplayer game environment.

Kinesiology of Fitness and Outdoor Pursuits

- Students will gain an understanding of the knowledge and skills necessary for leading a physically active lifestyle, which benefits the life-long healthy development of the whole student.

Kinesiology of Rhythmic Movement

- Students will explore a variety of rhythmic movement patterns and skills. Students will develop an understanding of the importance and value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, and self-expression.

Visual and Performing Arts

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

Our curriculum follows the Massachusetts Department of Education 2019 Curriculum Frameworks and 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 and Theater Arts at Westford Academy.

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Benchmarks

Grade 12

WESTFORD ACADEMY

"Shaping the future one child at a time"

Visit our website at: www.westfordk12.us