

WILSON HIGH SCHOOL – FRESHMEN ELECTIVE DESCRIPTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

Placement Test Dates: February 23rd at Cedarlane AND Mesa Robles! Make up dates @ Wilson 2/25

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

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

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

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

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

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

STEM Related Pathways – Project Lead the Way, CTE and IB Career Programme options

COMPUTER SCIENCE ESSENTIALS – This beginning class will expose students to a diverse set of computational thinking concepts, fundamentals, and tools, allowing them to gain understanding and build confidence. Students will use visual, block-based programming and text-based programming with languages such as Python to create apps and develop websites, and learn how to make computers work together to put their design into practice.

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

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

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

Career Technical Education Pathways – All courses meet A-G College Requirements under the Elective G

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

CULINARY ARTS 1 – This is an introductory course in the Food Service and Hospitality pathway. Class will focus on food purchasing, preparation techniques, meal service, etiquette, cultures, and technology. The course is designed for students interested in understanding the principles of food and nutrition and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Note: INTRO DRAMA, VISUAL COMMERCIAL ART 1, AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES and PRINCIPLES BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE HONORS also fall under the Career Technical Education designation.

Additional Electives and Programs– All courses meet A-G College Requirements under the Elective G

LAW AND ETHICS – This course introduces students to the American legal system and core ethical principles. Through case studies, debates, and mock trials, students examine major areas of law while building critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. Students learn to analyze legal issues, apply ethical frameworks to real-world scenarios, and understand how law shapes society. Ideal for those interested in law, criminal justice, public policy, or public service.

YEARBOOK (Adv. Journalism) - Students combine the critical thinking, reading and writing skills of print journalism with the artistic, creative and aesthetic skills of the visual and graphic arts. Students learn communication, management, and evaluation skills for individuals and small teams through the production of the school yearbook. ***Student editors will contact interested students to review expectations and confirm placement.***

PLEASE CHOOSE WISELY BASED ON YOUR INTERESTS!

All elective classes are YEARLONG commitments and changes cannot typically be made once the year begins. We do our best to place students in their first choice classes, but this will depend on the master schedule and class size restrictions.