

# OHS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: 2026-2027

## ARTS

### VISUAL ARTS

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| <b>Art 1</b>                 | Students will work with collage, drawing, painting, and more. The art curriculum is constantly changing to accommodate student interest and need for variety.                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Art 2</b>                 | Students will work with collage, fiber, printing making, and more. The art curriculum is constantly changing to accommodate student interest and need for variety.                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Art Studio</b>            | This class is designed for students who are capable of independent study and are interested in actively pursuing the study of visual art. Emphasis is on advanced work in any number of art mediums and focuses on aesthetics through assignments and individual projects.                                                        |
| <b>Ceramics 1</b>            | This class focuses on basic hand building techniques and knowledge of clay processes. Students experiment with glazing techniques.                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Ceramics 2</b>            | This class expands on Ceramics 1 with more complex projects and introduction to using the potter's wheel.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Ceramics Studio</b>       | Students who take this class are independent learners who are passionate about sculpture/pottery work. Emphasis is placed on proficient glazing techniques, studio management, and use of different clay bodies and materials not offered in Ceramics 1 or 2.                                                                     |
| <b>Visual Communications</b> | Students learn the basics of DSLR photography, as well as graphic design. Graphic design components include color theory, typography, branding, layout, and various design products. Students will use various professional creative design software.                                                                             |
| <b>Jewelry Making 1</b>      | This class will introduce students to jewelry design as an art form. We will practice techniques using various materials such as metal, clay, glass and wire. Students will learn how to apply the fundamentals of design and will explore the evolution of jewelry and personal adornment throughout history and among cultures. |

### PERFORMING ARTS

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| <b>Drama 1</b>  | This is a class that introduces students to basic theater concepts. It focuses on developing self-confidence and performance skills through creative group activities and performance projects. The emphasis is on building skills and techniques in beginning acting, basic technical theater and improvisation.                  |
| <b>Drama 2</b>  | This class explores the skills and techniques that were developed in Drama 1. Skills are polished and refined with an emphasis on acting skills, voice control, and developing character. Students explore history of theater, play analysis and scene study.                                                                      |
| <b>Drama 3</b>  | This class focuses on a deeper study of theater for the advanced theater student. Coursework will include advanced techniques in acting and production with emphasis on an interactive exploration of theater history and scene studies.                                                                                           |
| <b>Guitar 1</b> | This is a class for students with little or no experience on the guitar. The course will focus on the basic elements of music reading, music theory and playing technique. Students will work, play and create music in small groups, with the class as a whole and individually. Students will learn to play melodies and chords. |

**CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION****AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES**

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| <b>Ocean Science</b>                        | This class focuses on ocean life and processes. Topics include ocean and atmospheric interactions, currents, tides and organisms from plankton to whales.                                                 |
| <b>Environmental Science</b>                | This class focuses on systems, structures and changes of Earth's living and physical systems. Topics include plate tectonics, climate, weather, ecology and Earth's place in the solar system.            |
| <b>Agriculture, Hunger, and Environment</b> | This class explores food systems and equity, planting, harvesting and plant anatomy. This course includes required field excursions to identify native plants and explore careers within the food system. |

**BUSINESS & MARKETING**

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| <b>Traffic Safety/ Financial Literacy</b> | In this class, students complete the Washington state requirements to get a driver's license. This class requires strict attendance. Students also complete their required practice drives with an instructor outside of class time. This class also includes financial education.                                                                                                   |
| <b>Financial Algebra</b>                  | This class uses math to help you with everyday money decisions. You'll learn algebra through topics like banking, credit, taxes, insurance, and budgeting. You'll use step-by-step methods to understand things like the time value of money, how to choose the best cell phone plan, and how to build a basic business plan by figuring out costs, profits, and break-even points.  |
| <b>Yearbook</b>                           | Yearbook is a project-based course that combines journalism, photography, graphic design, and collaborative teamwork to create the school's yearbook. Students serve as the editorial staff responsible for documenting, designing, and producing a comprehensive record of the academic year that captures the essence of school life, student achievements, and memorable moments. |

**FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES**

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| <b>9<sup>TH</sup> Grade Success</b>     | This course prepares students for a strong transition into high school while building foundational academic and career readiness skills. We focus on being successful in high school and trying to figure out what we want to do after high school. Students will also engage in community service to experience the health benefits of helping others and being outdoors. We also learn how to use Microsoft Office programs like Word, Outlook and Excel. All 9th graders at Options take this class.          |
| <b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade Success</b>    | This course supports students in successfully transitioning from high school to college, technical training, apprenticeships, or employment. Students will explore ways they can "learn to earn" money to make a living. During semester 1, we will partner with FuturesNW to focus on financial aid. During semester 2, we will partner with Whatcom Dream to focus on personal finance. Students will also engage in community service to experience the health benefits of helping others and being outdoors. |
| <b>Financial and Personal Readiness</b> | Graduation day will be here before you know it! This course emphasizes informed decision-making, personal responsibility, and respectful engagement with others in both in-person and digital environments. We will also learn about some fundamental skills of life after high school: careers, banking, budgeting, housing, and insurance. This is a graduation requirement for the class of 2030 and beyond.                                                                                                  |
| <b>Health</b>                           | In this class students will learn about health fundamentals, personal safety, substance use and abuse, nutrition, mental health, and sexual health. These topics are explored in a safe and inclusive environment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Psychology of Children</b>           | This course provides a basic core knowledge of childcare based on the state licensing and certification requirements. Learn about developmental milestones, building curriculum, healthy practices, and trauma/resiliency. Students have the ability to earn their S.T.A.R.S. Certification and 3 credits through Whatcom Community College.                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| <b>Leadership Studies</b>                                                       | This class includes specific areas of study such as communication, organization and decision making. It is designed for all students interested in learning about and demonstrating leadership. Much of the course involves working on school service projects. All ASB members will need to take at least one quarter of this class.                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>SKILLED &amp; TECHNICAL SCIENCES</b>                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Introduction to Trades</b>                                                   | This class provides a foundational exploration of the construction industry. Students engage in hands-on learning experiences covering safety protocols, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and renewable energy buildings. This course emphasizes the fundamentals of carpentry, electrical work, plumbing and equipping students with essential skills for entry-level positions or further study in construction-related fields.                                           |
| <b>Construction Academy</b>                                                     | This is a class that focuses on technical knowledge and skills in the commercial building trades. Students will learn masonry, carpentry, electrical, steel, building/finishing, management, inspection and other construction-related applications.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Woodworking Foundations 1</b>                                                | In this class, students apply technical knowledge and skills to lay out projects made from wood. Students will shape, assemble, mark, bind, saw, carve and sand wooden products; repair wooden articles, and use a variety of hand and power tools. This is a great introductory course for students interested in learning about tools, skilled trades, production careers and the art of woodworking.                                                                           |
| <b>Woodworking Foundations 2</b>                                                | This class builds on the skills from Woodworking 1. Students will learn to use more advanced machines that can be used in cabinet making. Students will hone their carving skills and will also have the opportunity to attempt three-dimensional carving projects. Students will complete a cabinetry project such as a nightstand, a chip carving, a picture frame or jewelry box, and one project where they design and build a wooden object to meet the needs of a customer. |
| <b>Art 1, Art 2, Art Studio: See descriptions in Visual Arts</b>                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Ceramics 1, Ceramics 2, Ceramics Studio: See descriptions in Visual Arts</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Forensics</b>                                                                | This course is an introduction to detective work that is needed to help solve crimes. Students will analyze various crime scenes to develop their observational and problem-solving skills. The topics covered in this class include toxicology, DNA, fingerprinting, trace evidence, serology, fibers, handwriting and questioned documents.                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Visual Communications</b>                                                    | Students learn the basics of DSLR photography, as well as graphic design. Graphic design components include color theory, typography, branding, layout, and various design products. Students will use various professional creative design software.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>STEM- SCIENCE, TECH, ENGINEERING, &amp; MATH</b>                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Applied Mechanics</b>                                                        | In this class, you'll get to design, build, and test different mechanical projects. If you're curious about how machines work or you're interested in technical or engineering careers, this class is a great fit. You'll learn about how things move and work by building bridges and doing some basic robotics: both building and simple programming. Most projects end with a friendly competition where everyone's designs are tested to see how well they work.              |
| <b>Engineering Technology 1</b>                                                 | This class introduces students to computer-aided design (CAD) through 2D and 3F project-based learning. Students will engage in projects with an introduction 3D printing, laser cutting/engraving and computer numeric controlled (CNC) manufacturing. Students will learn collaboration skills, presentation skills and hone an ability to bring a product from concept to completion.                                                                                          |

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| <b>Engineering Technology 2</b>         | This is an extension of Engineering Technology 1. Students will collaborate and present interdisciplinary projects with an emphasis on expanding previous skills to include rendering of CAD designs and implementation of CAD plug-ins such as animation and CAM manufacturing for computer numeric controlled (CNC) machinery.                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Manufacturing 1</b>                  | This class focuses on career exploration and skills in the field of manufacturing. Students will focus on theories, methods and techniques used in the Manufacturing fields. Students will use equipment to create and manipulate their designs made with metal, wood, and composites. This course is hands-on and students will gain experience on industry standard machinery.                                                                                  |
| <b>ENGLISH</b>                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>English 101</b>                      | This class gives you a taste of lots of different types of writing—novels, poems, non-fiction, and short stories by many different authors. The goal is to help you enjoy reading and writing more, while also getting better at things like grammar, writing rules, and understanding literary terms.<br>You'll read at least one novel every quarter and connect it to important historical or current events. This class is required for all 9th graders.      |
| <b>English 201</b>                      | In this class, you'll learn how to write more detailed, thoughtful pieces and improve your critical thinking. You'll read and discuss all kinds of texts—classic books, plays, poems, modern stories, and non-fiction. You'll keep practicing communication skills through both group work and independent assignments. This class is required for all 10th graders.                                                                                              |
| <b>English 301</b>                      | In this class, you'll explore the idea of "The American Dream"—what people think it is, where it came from, and how different authors have written about it. You'll read American literature from many voices and backgrounds, including novels, plays, short stories, poems, speeches, and articles. You'll also practice writing in different styles, like essays, literary analysis, persuasive writing, satire, and personal reflections.                     |
| <b>American Literature</b>              | This class focuses on understanding America's story through books, plays, and poetry written by American authors. You'll explore the different experiences of people from many cultures and backgrounds in the U.S. You'll practice critical thinking, writing clearly, and understanding what you read, and you'll show what you've learned through writing, speaking, or multimedia projects.                                                                   |
| <b>Creative Writing</b>                 | This class is for anyone who wants to get better at writing—whether you already love writing or not. You'll learn about word choice, sentence flow, storytelling, and more by looking at other writers' work and creating your own. You'll write a little bit every day and create a portfolio that shows how your writing improves over time.                                                                                                                    |
| <b>World Myth, Folklore and Stories</b> | This class is all about how stories connect people everywhere. You'll read myths, folklore, and fairy tales from around the world and research a region's storytelling traditions. You'll also use modern technology to create multimedia projects and share stories. You'll even get the chance to tell your own stories.                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Poetry</b>                           | In this class, you'll learn about famous poets, important poetry movements, and different poetic styles. You'll read and analyze poems and write your own original pieces. You'll also research a poet and present what you've learned about their life, influence, and work.                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Speech &amp; Debate</b>              | This class helps you get better and more confident at public speaking. You'll practice lots of low-pressure, short speeches and discussions and slowly work up to more prepared, formal speeches—informative, persuasive, and interpretive. It's totally normal to feel nervous! Please don't let your nerves keep you from trying! The goal is to help you feel confident speaking in front of others, which is a super helpful skill for the rest of your life. |

| MATHEMATICS                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <b>Algebra 1</b>                        | In this class, you'll crack puzzles, spot patterns, and learn how to communicate your ideas like a pro problem-solver. You'll explore equations, graphs, and models that help explain how the world works, focusing on linear, quadratic, and exponential functions (the superstars of real-life math!). You'll also dive into data—how to read it, represent it, and use it to make sense of what's going on around you.                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Geometry</b>                         | Quarter one includes notation and vocabulary of shapes and angles. Angles in triangles, polygons, parallel lines and circles. Classification of shapes. Quarter two includes Pythagorean theorem, right-angled trigonometry, area of shapes, and transformations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Algebra 2</b>                        | In Algebra 2, you'll build on everything you learned in Algebra 1 and take it to the next level. You'll learn powerful new ways to solve equations and explore how different types of functions <i>really</i> work by playing with inverses, transformations, and a whole lineup of function families—polynomial, radical, rational, trigonometric, and exponential. It's challenging in the best way—and pretty awesome once everything clicks.                                                                                                  |
| <b>Applied Geometry</b>                 | This class offers students the opportunity to explore both simple and complex geometric problems drawn from real-world situations, helping them understand how geometry connects to everything around us, from everyday objects to the universe. Students will also learn important trigonometry concepts and their real-life applications. Through hands-on activities and problem-solving, they will strengthen their critical thinking, creativity, and reasoning skills, gaining both theoretical and practical knowledge of geometry.        |
| Math Electives                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Math &amp; Society</b>               | Get ready to see math in a whole new way! In this course, you'll discover how math actually shows up everywhere in the real world—from money and personal finance to trends, data, and even big public decisions. You'll learn how to decode charts and statistics, make smart financial choices, understand how things grow and change over time (hello, linear and exponential models!), and use probability to predict what might happen next. It's math you can use, math that matters, and math that actually explains the world around you. |
| <b>Financial Algebra</b>                | This class uses math to help you with everyday money decisions. You'll learn algebra through topics like banking, credit, taxes, insurance, and budgeting. You'll use step-by-step methods to understand things like the time value of money, how to choose the best cell phone plan, and how to build a basic business plan by figuring out costs, profits, and break-even points.                                                                                                                                                               |
| P.E./Health                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Health</b>                           | In this class students will learn about health fundamentals, personal safety, substance use and abuse, nutrition, mental health, and sexual health. These topics are explored in a safe and inclusive environment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Racquet Sports</b>                   | This class will introduce a variety of games such as pickleball, badminton, and tennis while promoting teamwork, communication, and good sportsmanship. Students will learn foundational skills, scoring rules, and basic strategies through both recreational and competitive play.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Strength &amp; Interval Training</b> | This course teaches students the fundamentals of safe and effective training while helping them build confidence in lifelong fitness practices. Students will learn proper lifting techniques, movement mechanics, and injury-prevention strategies as they engage in strength, endurance, and mobility exercises.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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| <b>Team Sports</b>                          | This class offers a broad variety of activities that will give students an opportunity to experience activities to enjoy for a lifetime. Activities may include: basketball, soccer, volleyball, tennis, badminton, pickleball, disc golf, flag football, softball, bocce, Ultimate Frisbee, team handball, speedball, spikeball and flickerball. Fitness testing and nutrition education are part of this course.                                                   |
| <b>Walking &amp; Hiking</b>                 | This class encourages students to develop lifelong healthy habits through regular walking and community exploration. Students will participate in structured walks throughout nearby neighborhoods, learning how to monitor intensity and heart rate, improve cardiovascular endurance and set personal fitness goals.                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Yoga</b>                                 | Students will develop mindfulness skills, explore strategies for managing stress, and learn how to create their own simple yoga flows.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>SCIENCE</b>                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Biology</b>                              | This class focuses on the science of life. Topics explored include body systems, cellular processes, genetics, population biology, and evolution.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Chemistry</b>                            | This class provides a background in chemistry and an understanding of matter and the changes it undergoes in the material world. Topics include atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical formulas and equations, nuclear chemistry, kinetic theory, energy changes in chemical reactions, and acids and bases.                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Physics</b>                              | This class focuses on an understanding of physics that will allow students to predict and describe events in the physical world. Topics explored will include motion, force, energy, waves, sound, light, electricity, relativity and astronomy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Science Electives</b>                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Agriculture, Hunger, and Environment</b> | This class explores food systems and equity, planting, harvesting and plant anatomy. This course includes required field excursions to identify native plants and explore careers within the food system.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Environmental Science</b>                | This class focuses on systems, structures and changes of Earth's living and physical systems. Topics include plate tectonics, climate, weather, ecology and Earth's place in the solar system.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Ocean Science</b>                        | This class focuses on ocean life and processes. Topics include ocean and atmospheric interactions, currents, tides and organisms from plankton to whales.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Applied Mechanics</b>                    | In this class, you'll get to design, build, and test different mechanical projects. If you're curious about how machines work or you're interested in technical or engineering careers, this class is a great fit. You'll learn about how things move and work by building bridges and doing some basic robotics: both building and simple programming. Most projects end with a friendly competition where everyone's designs are tested to see how well they work. |
| <b>Forensics</b>                            | This course is an introduction to detective work that is needed to help solve crimes. Students will analyze various crime scenes to develop their observational and problem-solving skills. The topics covered in this class include toxicology, DNA, fingerprinting, trace evidence, serology, fibers, handwriting and questioned documents.                                                                                                                        |
| <b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Civics</b>                               | Civics is a WA State graduation requirement. The class is designed to "develop students and graduates who are well-rounded community members engaged in the broader world." We work with civics partners and WWU's Community Engagement Fellows program to encourage students to live out their "values and traits" in order to make a difference in the lives of others.                                                                                            |
| <b>Contemporary World History</b>           | In contemporary world history we explore 1450-Present through the themes of empire. Colonialism and imperialism have dramatically shaped the world as it is today. In this class we start with big concepts and then dial into specific examples in different continents.                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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| <b>Criminology</b>                 | In this class we explore theories of crime and how society responds to crime. Our 3 units include: Theories of crime, The 3 C's (cops, courts, and corrections) and Crime Policy. This class is a great introductory course to the field of criminal justice.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Sociology</b>                   | This class discusses how the science of Sociology can help explain the world around us, analyzing power structures and institutions that shape the way we behave.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>US History</b>                  | In U.S. History, we explore history through the lens of how different minority groups have experienced "becoming an American." We discuss how different groups have experienced power, race, and freedom and what this looks like today.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>WWII Through Film &amp; Lit</b> | We explore the causes, and immediate and future impacts of WWII through the lens of movies and media.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Ethnic Studies</b>              | The goal of this course is to disrupt racism, advocate for those who have experienced the most cultural erasure, and advance equity by getting people what they need to be successful. This course will explore themes of identity & power. Students will engage collectively, and work toward encouraging a more prosperous future for all people. This is a 'College in the High School' course, therefore students will earn college credit for passing the course. |
| <b>Law &amp; Society</b>           | This course is designed to build upon criminology and dive further into how law impacts our government and rights as citizens. We will explore the functions of our legal system, and how laws have deep implications for social issues. The 3 units of the course include: Law & The Justice System, Criminal & Civil Law, and Constitutional Law.                                                                                                                    |
| <b>WORLD LANGUAGE</b>              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Spanish 1</b>                   | Hundreds of millions of people speak Spanish around the world. Join this group of world citizens by learning and practicing the basics of interpersonal communication. You will learn to read, write, listen, and speak in Spanish as well as learn about the vast and varied cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Spanish 2</b>                   | Pick up where you left off in Spanish 1. In this class we will continue to practice our Spanish reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills and explore new and interesting aspects of the Spanish-speaking world.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |