

Westford Academy

Future Freshman Night For Parents/Caregivers



Tuesday, February 10th 6:30pm

Tonight's Agenda:

- Introduction and Welcome
- Big Picture
- Overview of Program of Studies and scheduling timeline
- Course recommendation process through PowerSchool
- Curriculum Coordinators review offerings by department
- Q&A with coordinators

Future Freshman Visit



Opportunities for parent involvement at WA!

**All of our support groups are run by
parent volunteers.**

New members are always welcome!

**Great social connection to the
Westford Academy community!**

- School Advisory Council
- W.A. Athletic Boosters
- Friends of W.A. Basketball
- Friends of W.A. Ice Hockey
- Friends of W.A. Softball
- Friends of Westford Lacrosse
- W.A. Football Supporters
- Friends of W.A. Marching Band
- S.T.A.G.E. Crew (theater arts)
- YOUTHArts Westford
- Westford Education Foundation
- SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council)
- and more!



Westford Academy

Academic Distinction	Athletics & Activities	Future-Ready Programs
• Top-Rated MA Public HS	• 60+ Clubs & Activities	• Capstone Program
• NEASC Accredited	• Division 1 Athletics	• School-to-Career Path
• 20+ AP Courses (AP Honor Roll School)	• WATA & Ghostwriter	• Dual Enrollment
• Highly Qualified Faculty	• Cultural & Special Events	• Exchange Programs

**What is important to be
"successful" at WA?**



The right balance: Things to consider

- Values and Priorities
- Academic Course Load (Levels, interests, electives, challenging content)
- Family, Cultural, and/or Religious Commitments
- Activities/Clubs (Participation/Leadership roles)
- Jobs
- Athletics (Level, quantity, length, non school athletics)
- Student competition amongst themselves
- Socializing/Attending Events etc.
- New peers/friends

Communication is key!



- Weekly Friday Principal Emails
- Facebook/Instagram Social Media Accounts
- New WPS Webpage!
- Communication Protocol with Faculty and Staff
- Responses to emails and phone calls within 24-48 hours
- Back to School Night
- Google Classrooms
- Presentations for Parents
- Counseling Newsletters
 - Emailed to students & parents/caregivers every month
- Instagram
 - @WA_COUNSELING
- WA Class of 2030 Google Classroom for students

Curriculum Coordinators

Counseling: Lauren Clark

English: Janet Keirstead

World Languages: Stephanie Grabowski-Devlin

Science/Math: Dr. Christopher Jeffcoat

Social Studies: Chris Connole

PE/Health.: Brian Roark

Visual/Performing Arts: Andrea Mejia

Student Support Services: Sejal Costa

Business: Dan Twomey

Mrs. Lauren Clark

Director of School Counseling

[Counseling Department](#)

laurenclark@westfordk12.us



Counseling Department

- 7 School Counselors
 - Split up by alphabet
 - Students will know who their counselor is by June
- 2 School Adjustment Counselors

Stay connected by following us
on instagram: @wa_counseling



Credits/requirements



Each full year
course = 5 credits



Each half year
(semester) course =
2.5 credits



Students must enroll in
32.5 or 35 credits
each year

Subject Area	Credit Comment
English Language Arts	20.0
Mathematics	20.0
Science	15.0
History & Social Science	15.0 (World History 5 credits, U.S. History 10 credits)
World Languages	10.0*
Wellness (PE and Health)	10.0 (One semester each year)**
Visual & Performing Arts	2.5
Electives	25
Total	117.5

Course registration resources:

- Please refer to the [Freshmen Transition](#), [Scheduling 2026-2027](#) and [Program of Studies](#) for everything scheduling!
- [Freshmen Transition](#)
 - Academic Planning Tools
 - Co-Curricular Activities
 - Courses that meet the VPA Requirements
 - Freshman Course Listing
 - Program of Studies
 - Course Registration Slides

Course registration timeline:

- Part 1: Teachers adding recommendation
 - Throughout February: Teachers will be having conversations about recommendations with their students
- Part 2: Students review recs and add requests to PowerSchool
 - **February 26th:** PowerSchool portal and Override Link available/open at 2:30pm
 - **March 6th:** PowerSchool portal and override link closes at 2:30pm
- Part 3: After all requests are put into PowerSchool and master schedule created

How to input courses



MS counselors walked students through how to input courses.



The slides are posted on the Freshmen Transition page!



Steps are on page 22 of the Program of Studies.



Students should use a chromebook or laptop to input courses. Not their phone.



Students should be connecting with their teachers if they have questions regarding their recommendations.

Override Process



The Choice

For parents/caregivers/students who choose to reject their teacher's recommendation for placement and request enrollment in a more demanding course.



Trust the Process

Trust the recommendations that are in the system.



Teacher Guidelines

Teachers make their recommendations based on departmental guidelines. This is not a subjective decision. Student should discuss the recommendation with their current teacher.



Policy & Deadlines

There are limitations in place. Please follow our **OVERRIDE POLICY & PROCESS** for details of the process in the Program of Studies on pages 22-24.

Override google forms are due by 2:30pm on March 6th.

Override Process Questions:



If my child is filling out an override form, what do they do in PowerSchool?

Your child should mark what was recommended for them **EVEN** if they plan on overriding. After the portal has closed, the override note will be added to PS if it is approved.



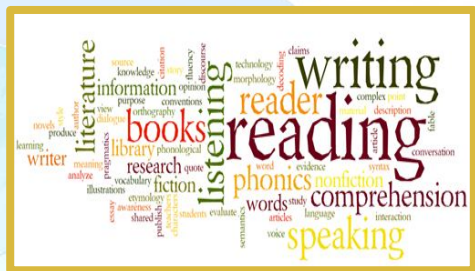
If a student is recommended for honors, can they request CP instead? Does that require an override?

Yes, they can choose CP instead.
No, that is not an override.



How will I know if my child's override was denied?

You would receive an email from the curriculum coordinator if the request was denied.



Ms. Janet Keirstead

Curriculum Coordinator
English Language Arts

jkeirstead@westfordk12.us

Course Level Guidelines

College

Unweighted

- ❖ Introductory
- ❖ Often exploratory
- ❖ Do not affect GPA
- ❖ Similar in pace and support to College Prep level

Preparatory

- ❖ Standard Pace
- ❖ Regular Teacher Guidance
- ❖ Consistent Review of Material

Honors

- ❖ Faster Pace
- ❖ Higher Quantity and Quality of Work
- ❖ Complex Analysis
- ❖ Critical Thinking
- ❖ Independent Work
- ❖ More Active Participation

Students considering honors should:

- ❖ Have a passion for the content.
- ❖ Work well independently and be self-motivated.
- ❖ Be able to manage a fast-paced curriculum.
- ❖ Participate actively in class.
- ❖ Read and understand complex text beyond literal meaning.
- ❖ Write and communicate effectively.
- ❖ Be able to use evidence to support a claim.
- ❖ Possess strong organizational skills.



Breathe in



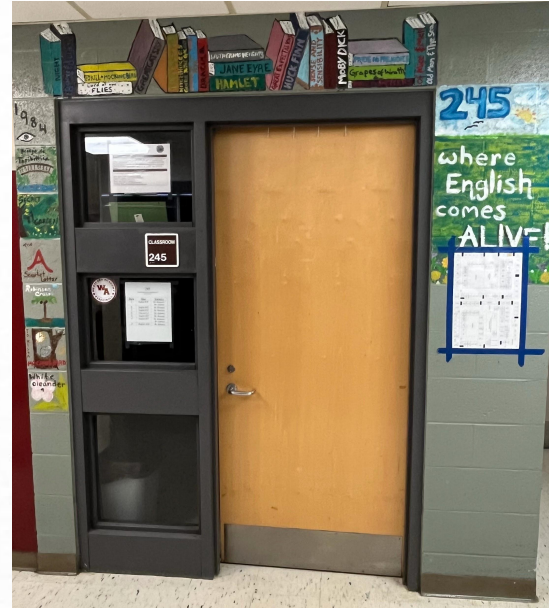
English

Required:
English 9
(CP or H)

Elective:
Journalism I



@wa_ghostwriter



Major Works

CP and Honors

Romeo and Juliet

To Kill A Mockingbird

Honors Only

A Raisin in the Sun

*Roses, in the Mouth of
a Lion*

Additional Options

Night

Speak

The Sun is Also a Star

Planning for the Future

Elective Options

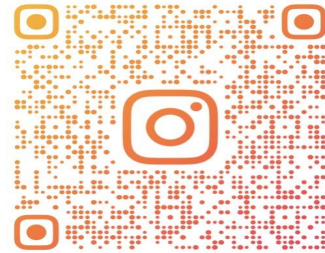
Journalism I-IV

Creative Writing I and II

Film and Literature



Ghostwriter Website

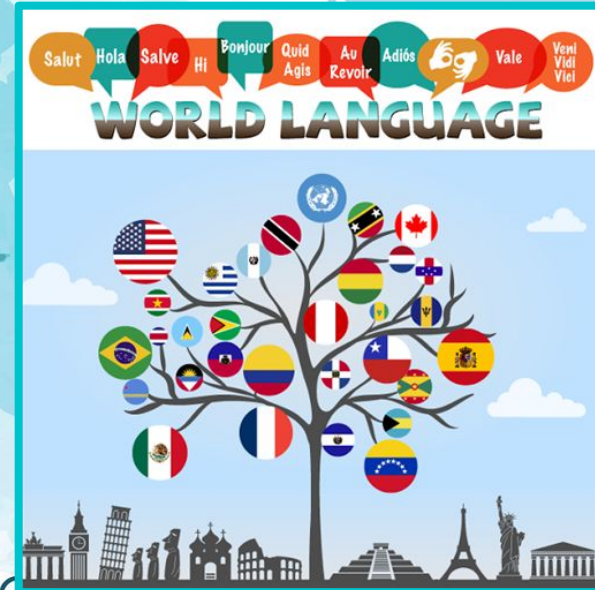


@WA_GHOSTWRITER

Instagram

Ms. Stephanie Grabowski-Devlin

Curriculum Coordinator
World Language Department
sdevlin@westfordk12.us



World Languages at WA

Students who **did not study a language in middle school** and students who wish to **change the language they are studying** or **add a second language** as an elective may choose from the following:

- French 1
- German 1
- Latin 1
- Spanish 1
- Mandarin 1

*Not all level 1 classes are offered each year so students must indicate a second choice when selecting one of these courses.

[WL Website](#)

WA students in Paris



World Languages at WA

Students who wish to continue studying the language they started in middle school will be recommended by their teacher for one of the following courses:

- French 2 CP or Honors
- German 2 CP or Honors
- Latin 2 CP or Honors
- Spanish 2 CP or Honors

WA students in Italy



Students should consider honors if they

- **Have met the prerequisite grade of 93 in their 8th Grade language class**
- **Enjoy communicating in another language and will actively take part in class discussions in the target language**
- **Are prepared to learn in an immersive environment - No English! (except Latin)**
- **Have strong interpretive skills (reading and listening)**
- **Can incorporate new material in their writing and are effective editors of their own work**
- **Can learn independently and work collaboratively**
- **Are curious about other cultures**

WA students in Germany



World Language Graduation Requirement

Students must take two years of the same World Language in order to satisfy the graduation requirement.

Many of our students study the same language for 4 years at WA and some choose to study a second language as an elective.



WA students in Segovia, Spain

Overview of World Language Opportunities 9-12



➡ **Language and culture clubs**

➡ **Courses through 12th grade (5H/CP or AP)**

➡ **Exchange programs with schools in France, Germany, and Spain open to students starting in 10th grade**

➡ **Students who continue studying a language can test to earn the MA Seal of Biliteracy during senior year.**





Dr. Chris Jeffcoat

STEM Curriculum Coordinator

[Science Department](#)

[Mathematics and Computer Science Department](#)

cjeffcoat@westfordk12.us

WA Science: Grade 9 Offerings

- Required:

- Biology

- (Biology MCAS in June)

- Elective Option:

- CP Intro to Engineering



Descriptions and prerequisites can be found online in the WA Program of Studies – Science Department

Biology Level Prerequisites

- Placement into courses is based on teacher recommendation.

Biology Level	Prerequisite
412 Honors	93 Overall Average in 8 th grade Science
410 CP	75 Overall Average in 8 th grade Science
406 CP	Below 75 Overall Average in 8 th grade Science

Students may override by ONE level only. For example, a student recommended for 406 CP may NOT override to the 412 Honors level.

Taking CP Biology does NOT disqualify students from AP courses later in high school (must have success in an honors level science course the year prior to enrolling in AP science).

Honors Biology Fieldwork



Embark on a Rigorous Year-Long Local Ecosystem Study.

Document Biodiversity



Conduct detailed field observations and maintain a scientific journal.

Design Independent Investigations



Formulate hypotheses and execute original research.

Synthesize Findings



Produce formal, data-driven scientific reports.

Experience science as a living, breathing discipline—not just a subject in a textbook.

Looking Forward to the Future



Life Science



Marine Biology



Forensics Science/Biotech



Environmental Science



Human Anatomy and Physiology



AP Environmental Science



Physical Science



AP Chemistry



AP Physics



Engineering



Robotics



Intro to Engineering



Mechanical Engineering

Specific Grade Prerequisites for Math and Computer Science Courses

Suggested Course	Prerequisite
305 Algebra 1 CP	Less than 75 in 8th Grade Math
308 Algebra 1 CP	➤ At least 75 in 8th Grade Math ➤ Less than 80 in Algebra 1
321 Geometry CP	At least 80 in Algebra 1
322 Geometry H	➤ At least 87 in Algebra 1

Options for doubling up:

If you choose to double up, the options are:

- 9th Grade: 308 Algebra 1 with 321 Geometry (Not Recommended)

- Must be requested by student, will not be automatically recommended by teacher

- 10th Grade: Geometry with Algebra 2

➤ Doubling up is only an option for students who are currently enrolled in 8th grade, it is not applicable to students currently in Algebra 1

Strongly discouraged in 9th Grade

- Consider 10th Grade option, if at all
- Algebra 1 knowledge applied in Geometry
- Second math would take the place of a 9th Grade Elective
 - Students encouraged to explore passions and interests in other areas of WA (art, music, business, CS)

***1 Math Course Required Each Year - **Doubling Up does not replace this**

Looking Forward to the Future



$$\frac{x-yy^2}{x^2+4}$$

Algebra II



Statistics



Advanced Quantitative Reasoning



AP Statistics

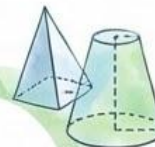


Trigonometry and Precalculus

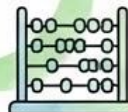
Calculus

AP Pre-Calculus

AP Calculus AB & BC



$$\int_0^x dx$$



*Open to All
Students*

**Exploring Computer
Science CP
(949)
(Semester)**

**Java Programming
Honors
(358)
(Semester)**

**AP Computer Science A
(362)
(Full Year)
Rq'd 85 in Java Prog H**

*These course offerings are in the electives section.

Advanced CS courses (grades 10-12):

Honors Java Programming must be completed before enrolling in AP Computer Science.

Mr. Chris Connoles

Curriculum Coordinator

[History/Social Studies Department](#)

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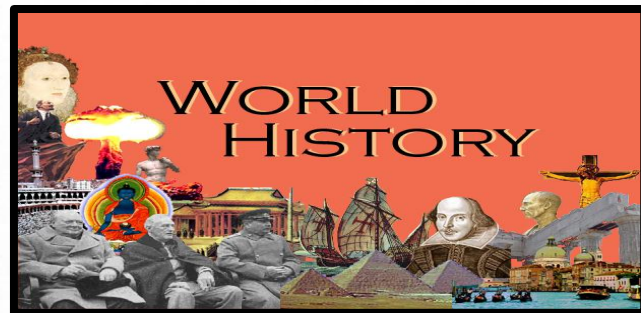
History & Social Studies: Grade 9

Modern World History

- Starts at the Enlightenment and goes through the 20th Century
- Emphasis on inquiry, critical thinking, reading, research and writing
- Content can be challenging

Levels

- Honors
- College Prep
- Each year's grade determines eligibility for the next year



What is the difference between Levels?

College Prep

- **Content:** Enlightenment through the 20th Century
- **Inquiry** - provided guided questions
- **Critical Thinking** - provided scaffolding to guide discovery
- **Reading** - chunked primary sources
- **Research** - teacher provided resources
- **Writing** - teacher provided outlines and structure
- **Assessment** - development of study skills

Honors

- **Content:** Enlightenment through the 20th Century
- **Inquiry** - independently draw conclusions drawing on background knowledge
- **Critical Thinking** - independently create questions for further discussion
- **Reading** - come to class prepared to discuss
- **Research** - independently identify sources
- **Writing** - Create and follow outline for various writing styles
- **Assessment** - independent study skills

Planning for the Future

Required Classes

- US History I and II

Elective Categories

Psychology & Sociology
Government
Economics
European History
Local History
Senior Seminar

Highlights to look forward to:

9th Grade Sewing Project

- Revamped Civics Project

- Expanded economics offerings

- Rotating Senior Seminar topics



Mr. Brian Roark

- Health and Physical Education Curriculum Coordinator, K-12



Well-Rounded Educational Experience

*Health and Physical Education are **essential, academic components of a student's well-rounded educational experience** and provide the following benefits:*

- Provide opportunities for students to build and refine social and emotional skills
- Prevention against negative consequences of stress
- Positive association with attention, concentration and on-task behavior
- Reduction of feelings of anxiousness
- Positive relationship with academic achievement
- Encourage lifetime healthy habits

Grade 9 Course Offerings

Health and Wellness Management

Whether taken in Semester 1 or Semester 2, this required course supports students as they transition to high school focusing on:

- Development of lifelong healthy habits
- Physical, mental and emotional health
- Skills to manage stress and stay active

Child Development

Newly open to Grade 9 students, this elective introduces child development by exploring:

- Growth from before birth through early childhood
- Family influence and caregiving
- Physical, social, and emotional development

Great for students interested in: child care, education, or medical fields.

Basics of Kin. in Physical Education

Curious what PE is really like at Westford Academy? Primarily for Grade 9 students, this course helps you:

- Try a variety of games and fitness activities
- Build confidence in PE basics
- Discover what you enjoy while building lifelong wellness habits

A great way to explore your options and prepare for future PE classes.

Adapted Physical Education

Provides developmentally appropriate Physical Education (*based on MA Framework*) for students with disabilities in Grades 9–12, as determined by the IEP Team, by focusing on:

- Activities where all students can fully participate
- A supportive environment designed for individual needs
- Building skills, confidence, and quality of life through movement

Beyond Grade 9

Fulfills Yearly Requirement

Kinesiology of Team Games

Kinesiology of Team Games II

Kinesiology of Individual and Dual Games

Kinesiology of Fitness and Outdoor Pursuits

Kinesiology of Fitness and Exercise

Kinesiology of Fitness for Health Enhancement

Kinesiology of Rhythmic Movement

Elective Options

Child Development CP

- Students participate in a parenting simulation with a fake infant

Foundations of Coaching and Officiating

- *Opportunity for earning NFHS officiating certification in selected sports*

DE Child Growth and Development (11-12)

- *Offered in conjunction with Middlesex Community College*

DE Discovering Teaching (11-12)

- *Offered in conjunction with Middlesex Community College*

Senior Health Seminar (12)

- *Introduces students to a variety of topics may encounter in their post-grad years*

Program Goals

Health Literacy - “An individual's capacity to access information, resources and services necessary to maintaining and promoting health” (SHAPE America, 2015).

Physical Literacy - “An individual's ability, confidence and desire to be physically active for life. ”(SHAPE America, 2015).

Foundational knowledge and skills for leading an active life, as well as the ability to access, understand, and apply credible information when making health-informed decisions



Mrs. Andrea Mejia

**K-12 Visual and Performing Arts
Curriculum Coordinator**

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WESTFORD ACADEMY



MUSIC



THEATER ARTS



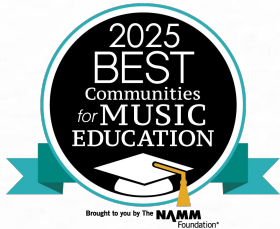
VISUAL ART

**2.5 Credit Requirement =
1 semester**

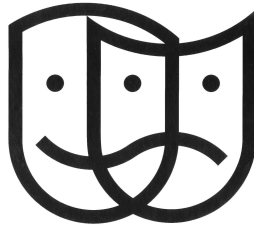
About us...



State and Nationally Recognized for Excellence



Best Community for Music Education for the past 13 years



METG State Championship Winner



Scholastic Art Awards

2024-2025: 19 Awards including Gold Keys/Silver Keys/Honorable Mentions

Performance Music Ensembles for students in Grade 9

Semester or Full Year Options

Chamber Orchestra



***Concert Band
Concert Percussion***



Concert Choir

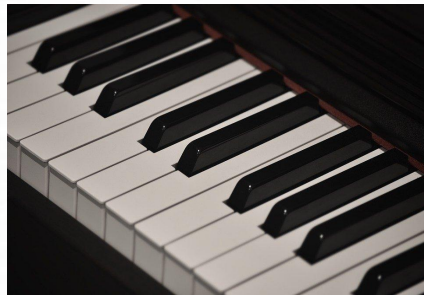


Applied Music courses available to students in Grade 9 (semester courses)

Guitar I



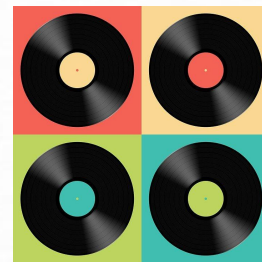
Piano I



Ukulele I



Electronic Music I



Theater Arts courses available to students in Grade 9

Elements of Theater (Prerequisite)

****Semester Course***

Acting I

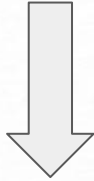
****Semester Course***

***Visual Art courses available to students in Grade 9
(semester courses)***

Foundations of Art (Prerequisite)

Digital Art (formerly Image Editing)

****Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop software***



Movie Making I

****Adobe/After Effects software***

***Can pair with:
Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Photography***

3D Animation and Modeling

****Blender software***

Co-curricular opportunities available to students in Grade 9

Marching Band

Jazz Band

Pep Band

Troubadours (Strings)

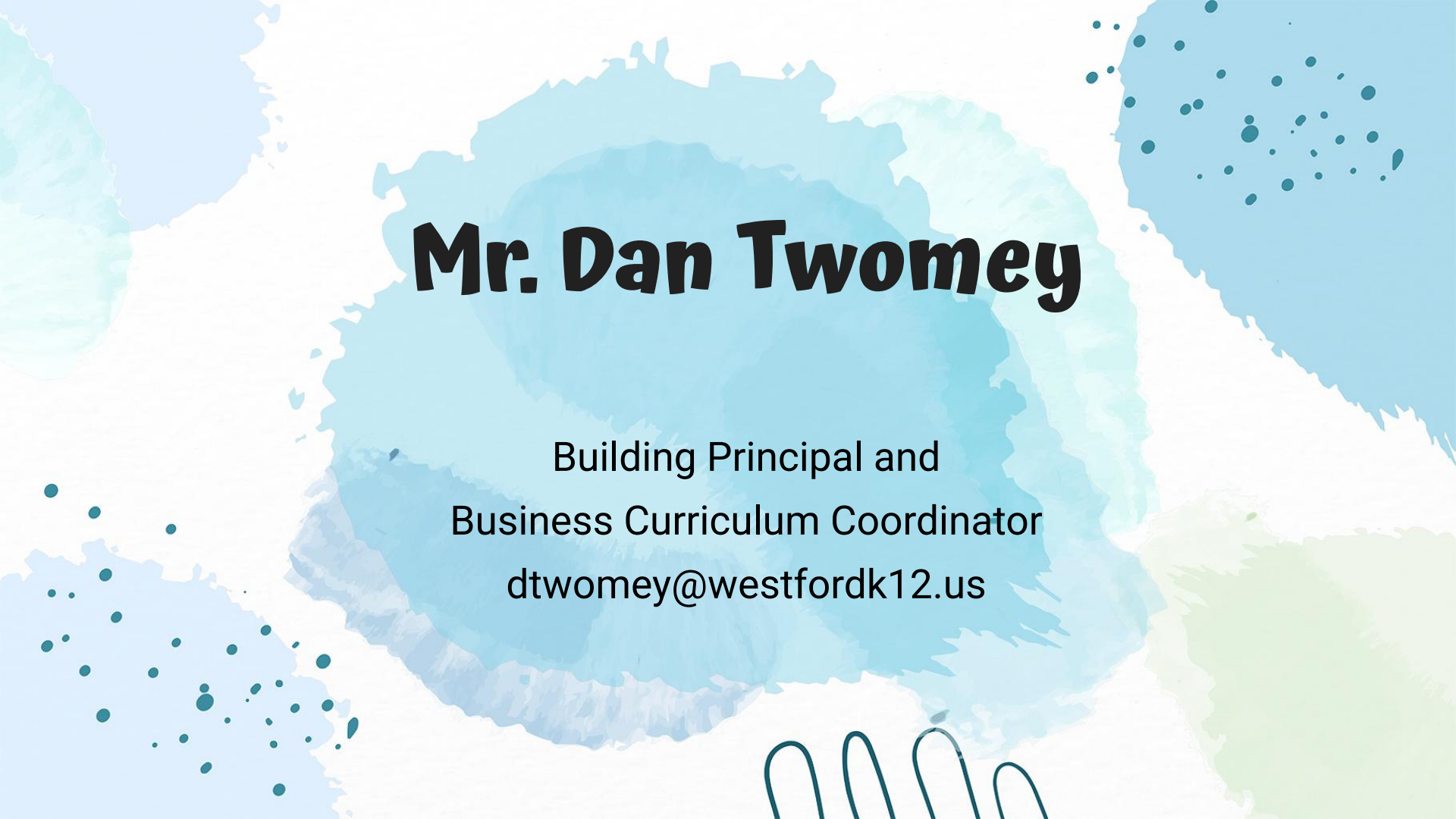
WAcappella (Vocal group)

***WATA - Westford Academy
Theater Arts Main stage***

WATA - Black Box

Art Club

Movie Making Club



Mr. Dan Twomey

Building Principal and
Business Curriculum Coordinator
dtwomey@westfordk12.us



WA's Business Program

Classes to choose from for your Freshman Year:

- Principles of Marketing
- Principles of Management
- Accounting
- Introduction to Business and DECA
- Webpage Development
- Microsoft Certified Application Specialist

In order to participate in the DECA Club - you must take at least one business class at WA each year.

What is DECA?

- DECA is a Business Club/Competition for high school students around the *globe with 300,000+ Members*
- DECA Members learn various business concepts and skills that prepare them for a professional career
- DECA Prepares YOU to be a leader!!
- WA DECA has over 300 members and is the Largest Club at WA!!

THE Business Program and THE DECA CONNECTION

- DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, sales and management in high schools and colleges around the globe
- DECA is the APPLICATION of the WA business classes content/skills to real world opportunities and simulations

Thank you and Q&A

- If you have any general questions for our curriculum coordinators, please join them in a various parts of the PAC!
- If you have very specific questions, please email the curriculum coordinators.
- You can meet with more than one coordinator... just hop around!

If you have more questions after tonight, please feel free to email us.

