WASHINGTON-MARION MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

CHARGIN' INDIANS

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2026-2027

Explore • Plan • Prepare • Succeed

CROWN THE COMEBACK

KNOWLEDGE • OPPORTUNITY • SUCCESS

SUPPORT • GUIDE • EMPOWER • SUCCEED

GROW • ACHIEVE • THRIVE

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

ENGLISH I

This course will allow students to improve their reading, writing, and communication skills using a variety of genres of literature and several styles of writing, with particular emphasis placed on nonfiction texts as well as evidence-based writing.

ENGLISH II – Prerequisite: English I (passed or currently enrolled)

This course will address the elements of language through a variety of literature genres. Composition is also addressed through several forms of writing, including research, research skills, and techniques.

ENGLISH III – Prerequisite: English I & English II

This course is designed to help students meaningfully appreciate various genres of American Literature. While reading several books, plays, and poetry, students will learn to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate the content of a range of literary themes and concepts.

ENGLISH IV – Prerequisite: English I, II, & III

This course is designed to help students meaningfully appreciate various genres of British Literature. While reading several books, plays, and poetry, students will learn to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate the content of a range of literary themes and concepts.

BUSINESS ENGLISH

This course is designed to enforce composition and reading skills such as sentence structure, reading fluency, and vocabulary through a variety of nonfiction and fiction literary works.

TECHNICAL WRITING

An introductory course in communicating information about technical subjects within a work setting. This course is designed to aid in the development of skills that enable students to produce clear and effective technical documents such as reports, instructions, summaries, emails and memos. This course does not count as an English on the TOPS University pathway.

MATH DEPARTMENT

ALGEBRA I

This course is designed to emphasize the study of multiple representations of linear and non-linear functions. Topics include mathematical concepts for working with rational numbers, various expressions, analyzing and solving linear equations and inequalities, data analysis, probability, statistics, and polynomials.

GEOMETRY – Prerequisite: Algebra I (passed or currently enrolled)

This course is designed to emphasize the study of the properties and applications of common geometric figures in two and three dimensions. Topics include study of transformations and right triangle trigonometry, writing and solving proofs, and learning the properties of geometric figures.

ALGEBRA II – Prerequisite: Algebra I & Geometry (passed or currently enrolled)

This course sharpens the understanding of concepts taught in Algebra I and extends the use of functions as models for real-world situations. Topics include logarithmic, trigonometric, and higher- order polynomial functions, sequences, and matrices.

MATH ESSENTIALS

This course is a survey course that includes basic Algebra I and Geometry concepts. This course does not count as a math on the TOPS University pathway.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

This course will serve as a foundation for students to learn to make mathematically sound decisions in their roles as consumers and/or entrepreneurs. Course topics include insurance, personal banking, financial planning, and analysis of financial management tools.

BUSINESS MATH

The course content includes the fundamental processes of mathematics with emphasis on problem-solving techniques. Students will perform basic arithmetic operations and solve word problems. They will recognize and understand the techniques of measurement in the English and Metric systems as well as understand and apply concepts of algebra and their use in formulas related to occupational areas of study. This course does not count as a math on the TOPS University pathway.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

CIVICS

This course will serve to teach students the foundations of American government. Students will explore different types of government, the establishment of the Constitution, the roles of US citizens, and the fundamentals of economic systems.

U.S. HISTORY

This course will provide students with analytical skills and factual knowledge of events in American history from Post-Construction Westward Expansion to the Modern Era. Students will attain an understanding of how democratic foundations have influenced the current political system, domestic and foreign policy, and society.

WORLD HISTORY

This course will allow students to develop a deep understanding of the major historical events around the world from the Renaissance through present day. By analyzing significant historical periods, students explain how society, the environment, the political and economic landscape, and historical events influence perspectives, values, traditions, and ideas.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

This course will provide students with information in both physical and human geography as well as develop a deep understanding of the interconnectedness of people and place. Students will survey areas around the globe to analyze the physical environment of a place and how that relates to the culture, economy, and political systems that has developed in each area.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

This course provides a comprehensive examination of the experiences and contributions of African Americans throughout history, exploring topics like the transatlantic slave trade, slavery in the United States, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Civil Rights Movement, Black Power movement, and contemporary issues facing African Americans, highlighting their cultural, political, and social struggles for equality and the significant role they have played in shaping American society.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

This course is the study of the biological, chemical, and physical aspects of the environment. Emphasis is placed on environmental problems and remedies as well as on consumer education in the field.

BIOLOGY

This course will offer an introduction to the different levels and organization of life. Included areas of study are cell function and organization, cell reproduction and genetics, evolution and natural selection, flow of matter and energy through ecosystems, the human body, and organism behavior.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

This course offers an introduction to chemistry and physics. By the end of the course, students will be able to measure physical properties of matter, use metric system, name and write chemical symbols and formulas, identify subatomic particles, classify elements, and differentiate between mass and weight and speed and velocity.

CHEMISTRY

This course is the study of various phases of matter, their characteristics, and their atomic and molecular structure. The lab will be used to emphasize techniques and experiments to illustrate and reinforce the concepts that are studied.

BIOLOGY II – Prerequisite: Biology

This course expands on the biological principles and concepts presented in Biology. It will encompass advanced human body, zoology, and enzyme function and reaction.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

SPANISH I

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. Emphasis is placed on speaking and understanding.

SPANISH II – Prerequisite: Spanish I

This course continues to work on oral skills and grammatical development of the Spanish language.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

P.E. I, II, III, IV

This course teaches fitness, self-management skills, developing a positive attitude for lifetime fitness, discussion of cardiovascular fitness and how that is incorporated into recreation, active sports, and skill-related physical fitness.

JR ROTC I, II, III, IV

This program is designed to develop informed and responsible citizens. Students develop leadership skills, self-reliance, and self-discipline through drill and curriculum. Students must wear ROTC uniforms to school once a week.

HEALTH (0.5 credit)

This course focuses primarily on student's personal health. It is wellness-based and offers students opportunity to analyze their health and well-being regarding fitness, disease, abuse, prevention and awareness, communication, family, and environmental health.

ART & MUSIC DEPARTMENT

ART I

This course places emphasis on learning drawing, design, and sculpture techniques.

ART II – Prerequisite: Art I

This course emphasizes design, painting, graphics, and sculpture.

ART III – Prerequisite: Art I & Art II

This course provides further instruction concentrating on a student's area of expertise.

ART IV – Prerequisite: Art I, II & III

This course provides more individualized instruction concentrating on a student's area of expertise. Portfolios will be created in this course.

PHOTOGRAPHY I, II, III, IV

This course provides instruction in Fine Art with the operation of cameras, Photoshop, and composition.

BEGINNING BAND

Students who have an interest in learning an instrument may enroll in this class. All small instruments must be bought (Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, and Trombone). Larger instruments may be provided.

ADVANCED BAND

Students who have some previous skills in a musical class may enroll. This class is structured for some students that may have already been in Interim Band.

CHOIR

Students take part in a vocal group that will participate in performances as well as learn to sight read music.

ADVANCED CHORUS - Prerequisite: CHOIR

This course is for students who want to develop skills in music reading and performance through membership in highly trained choral ensembles.

PIANO

Students will learn to read music and the play the piano keyboard.

SPEECH & THEATER DEPARTMENT

SPEECH I

This course offers an overview of many levels of communication. Basic communication skills, public speaking, debate, interpretive reading, and drama are covered and practiced.

THEATER ARTS I

Theater Arts I is an introduction course to the art of theatre. This course will cover many introductory aspects of theatre including technical theatre, performance techniques, auditioning, theatrical critiquing of plays and musicals, costume design, make-up design, and much more! This class is for those who wish to understand the theatrical arts at a beginner level. This class consists of many projects and performance elements of theatre and musical theatre. This course introduces and explores theatre from page to stage as a live performing art. We will also engage with live performances and video archives of past performances.

THEATER ARTS II – Prerequisite: Theater Arts I

This course is for advance students wishing to build on their previous knowledge of theatre and performance. In this course, we will expand on beginning theatrical knowledge to focus on: improvisation, audition process, monologues, duets and group scenes, theatre history, movement, voice and diction, playwriting, Shakespeare, theatre literature and more! We will also engage with live performances and video archives of past performances.

PUBLICATIONS I, II (YEARBOOK)

This course provides instruction on the skills to complete the school's yearbook utilizing Photoshop and yearbook software. Photography and computer skills are appreciated, but not necessary. This course may only be scheduled by application & sponsor selection.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

FOOD SCIENCE I

This course provides a variety of hands-on activities through which students will develop skills and knowledge that relate to sewing, housing, childcare, self-esteem, family relationships, nutrition, and food preparation.

BAKING ARTS

In this course, students learn baking and pastry techniques with an emphasis on sanitation and food safety, basic baking fundamentals, tools used in the baking industry, proper measurement of ingredients, and converting formula yields. Students will demonstrate skills in preparing various types of pies, tarts, cookies, cakes, and breads. students will also be provided the opportunity to evaluate career options in the baking industry.

HOSPITALITY/MARKETING (0.5 credit)

This course teaches students a customer-oriented approach to marketing in hospitality and tourism. The role of marketing in an organization's overall strategic planning is emphasized.

SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT & EVENT MANAGEMENT (0.5 credit)

This course focuses on providing the knowledge and skills needed to optimize the experiences of consumers and employees in sports and entertainment. Students will learn to develop, implement, and manage sports and entertainment events, as well as the operations of sport and entertainment organizations.

NUTRITION & FOOD (1/2 CREDIT)

This course is a study of basic principles of nutrition, meal planning, preparation of simple meals, optimal use of the food dollar, and job opportunities in food-related industries.

ADVANCED NUTRITION & FOOD (1/2 CREDIT) – Prerequisite: Nutrition & Food

This course addresses more complex concepts with emphasis on social, psychological, and cultural influences on food choices.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (IBCA)

This course is designed to teach students basic computer skills and to type accurately. Students will learn formatting for common documents that are widely used in the business world. Proper interview skills and business protocol are also taught to prepare students for job interviews, creating resumes, and job application letters.

BUSINESS COMPUTER APPLCIATIONS (BCA) – Prerequisite: IBCA

This course is designed to provide students with basic computer application skills in word processing, spreadsheets, presentation graphics, and database. Computer technology will be presented that could lead to student's ability to obtain Microsoft Office Specialist certification in Microsoft Word and Excel. This is a dual enrollment course with SOWELA.

PRINCIPLES OF BUSINESS

This is an introductory course that provides students with basic business operation skills that can be applied to both personal and professional situations. Topics of study include the economic process, the free enterprise system, business ethics, banking, savings and investments, consumer credit, consumer rights and decision-making, and career planning.

GENERAL ELECTIVES

QUEST FOR SUCCESS

This is an awareness experience exploration course. It is designed to help students with career planning and job success. It will help students determine the correct career choice based on interests, aptitude, abilities, and personality.

LAW STUDIES

This course is the study of the American legal system. The major topics discussed will be criminal law, civil law, juvenile law, and family law.

FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION – Prerequisite: Multicultural Learning Communities

This course provides an orientation to teaching that includes legal and organizational aspects of public education; history and philosophy of education; student-centered teaching strategies, and multicultural insights to support the educational needs of diverse students in the learning environment. Field-experiences in this course help students to apply and reflect on teaching strategies that engage students and promote learning.

MULTICULTURAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES – Application required & teacher selection

Students will engage in learning activities that expose them to issues related to teaching and working with diverse student populations and reflect on the interactions of culture, teaching, and learning. Students will address issues that are prevalent when teaching in culturally, ethnically, socially, and linguistically diverse classrooms. Students will also be challenged to explore how the conceptions of educational diversity and equity can fit into their own teaching practices .