

GRIT FIRE PROGRAM

Firefighting & EMS Careers • 2026-2027 Syllabus

Instructor Name:	Charles Jones	Phone:	360-560-8025
Classroom #:	Bldg. D, Room 420	Email:	charles.jones@tumwater.k12.wa.us
Session Times:	AM 0750 - 1020 hrs. PM 1110 - 1340 hrs.	School Website:	www.tumwater.k12.wa.us/nmsc
		Program Website:	www.herosaver.org

Program Overview

The GRIT Fire Program introduces students to firefighting and emergency medical services (EMS) through classroom instruction, hands-on training, physical conditioning, leadership, and career preparation. Students are held to professional fire/EMS expectations while building discipline, teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and strong work habits.

GRIT stands for Growth, Resilience, Initiative, and Training. The program supports pathways into fire, EMS, emergency management, military service, college, skilled trades, and other service-oriented careers.

Program Objectives and Areas of Instruction

- Fire service organization and career pathways
- Firefighter safety, PPE, and respiratory protection
- Fire apparatus, equipment, and tools
- Fire hose, water supply, and ground ladders
- Ropes, knots, search, rescue, and fireground operations
- Vehicle extrication and technical rescue concepts
- Wildland firefighting and hazardous materials awareness
- Incident command and communications
- Physical fitness and firefighter readiness
- Leadership, teamwork, practical scenarios, and career preparation
- Emergency medical response, CPR, and first aid

Class Credits

GRIT is a Career and Technical Education program. Students earn high-school credit and may also qualify for articulated/dual college credit.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS	COLLEGE CREDIT OPPORTUNITY
• 1.0 Occupational Education • 1.0 Health & Fitness • 1.0 Lab Science (Year 1 only)	Up to 15 credits with qualifying grades through Bates Technical College, subject to current articulation requirements.

Professional Certifications & Course Certificates

Students work toward the following credentials as scheduled for their year level:

- AHA Basic Life Support (BLS) / CPR Certification - All Students
- FEMA IS-100.c - Introduction to the Incident Command System - 1st Year
- FEMA IS-700.b - National Incident Management System - 1st Year
- FEMA IS-200.c - 2nd Year
- FEMA IS-5.A - Introduction to Hazardous Materials - 2nd Year
- L-180 - Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service - 2nd Year
- S-190 - Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior - 2nd Year
- S-130 Firefighter Training - online + field/performance component - 2nd Year

Program Supplies & Daily Readiness

GRIT provides core program supplies. Students are responsible for basic classroom and activity-specific items and are expected to arrive ready for both classroom and practical training.

PROVIDED BY GRIT

- Two uniform T-shirts
- Water bottle
- Practice rope
- Training PPE/equipment as assigned
- Textbooks/course materials as assigned

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Writing utensil and notebook/paper
- Appropriate PT clothing on designated days
- Activity-appropriate footwear/clothing as directed
- Charged school device when required
- Ready to learn, participate, and work as a team

Grading and Assessment

GRIT is a workplace-preparatory program. Students are assessed on academic knowledge, participation, professionalism, skill performance, physical readiness, teamwork, and completion of assigned work. Official grades are recorded in Skyward; Google Classroom may be used to distribute and collect assignments.

Occupational Education	Health & Fitness	Lab Science - Year 1
90% Employability / 10% Assessments	70% Participation / 30% Logs	40% Tests & Quizzes / 30% Classwork / 30% Projects

Assessment may include quizzes, tests, projects, practical skill sheets, scenarios, leadership assignments, physical training, professionalism, and company/battalion responsibilities.

Late Assignment Policy

Classwork is expected on time. Exceptions may be made for excused absences, prearranged circumstances, or accommodations required by an IEP or Section 504 plan.

- Work is late when submitted after the class period or posted due time.
- Late work may be accepted for up to 48 hours for a maximum of 75% of the original point value, unless otherwise directed.
- Work submitted after the 48-hour window may receive no credit unless an exception is approved.
- Extra-credit or reassessment opportunities may be offered when they reinforce course learning objectives.

Grade Scale

Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade
100-94	A	79-77	C+
93-90	A-	76-73	C
89-87	B+	72-70	C-
86-83	B	69-67	D+
82-80	B-	66-60	D

59% and below = F

NMSC Expectations & Academic Integrity

Students must follow the NMSC Student Employability Handbook, Tumwater School District policies, and GRIT program procedures. GRIT expectations are designed to mirror a professional fire/EMS workplace.

Students must complete their own work unless collaboration is specifically authorized. Cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized copying, or misrepresentation of another person's work may result in loss of credit and school/program consequences.

Electronic Devices

Personal devices may not interfere with instruction, training, safety, or professional conduct. Phones remain put away unless authorized for instruction, authentication, program communication, or an urgent family/emergency need. Repeated misuse may result in classroom or school consequences.

Dress Code, Uniform, and PPE

GRIT follows fire/EMS workplace standards. Students must wear activity-appropriate clothing and footwear and keep GRIT uniform items clean and professional. Bring PT clothing on designated days. Issued PPE must be inspected, maintained, transported, and worn as directed.

Food & Drink

Food and drink may be permitted in the classroom when they do not create a distraction, sanitation concern, or safety issue. Students are responsible for cleaning their area. Food and drink are prohibited where safety, equipment, or facility rules require it.

Field Trips, Training Sites, and Off-Campus Activities

For field trips and off-campus training, students must wear the required GRIT uniform and any directed footwear, long pants, PPE, or equipment. Students represent GRIT and NMSC and are expected to conduct themselves professionally.

Safety Policy

Safety is a core program expectation. Horseplay, unsafe shortcuts, misuse of equipment, or failure to follow safety directions is prohibited. Students must immediately report hazards, damaged equipment, injuries, or medical concerns. Instructors may remove a student from an evolution when continued participation presents a safety risk.

Leadership, Teamwork, and Fire Service Structure

Students operate within a fire service-inspired structure. Company Officer and Battalion Chief roles develop leadership, accountability, communication, mentoring, and team performance. Student leadership roles never replace instructor authority.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance, punctuality, participation, and preparation are essential because many GRIT activities are hands-on and cannot be fully replicated later. Students should use normal school absence procedures and contact the instructor regarding missed work or make-up requirements.

Professional Conduct

- Arrive prepared and ready to work.
- Follow instructor and safety directions immediately.
- Treat classmates, staff, partner agencies, facilities, and equipment with respect.
- Maintain assigned equipment and return it in serviceable condition.
- Use professional language and behavior appropriate for a fire/EMS workplace.
- Contribute positively to your company and the overall program.

Student / Parent / Guardian Communication

GRIT instructors use school-approved contact information and communication systems. Students and families should communicate early when attendance, academics, transportation, medical limitations, or other circumstances may affect participation.

Course Goal

The goal of GRIT is not simply to teach firefighter skills. The program develops the character, confidence, work ethic, leadership, and professional skills students need to succeed in fire, EMS, emergency management, skilled trades, college, military service, or other career pathways.

Student & Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment

I have read, understand, and agree to the class rules, grading practices, safety requirements, and expectations described in this syllabus.

Student Name (Printed)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

What Students Can Expect from GRIT

- Realistic fire and EMS career exploration
- Hands-on training with fire service tools, PPE, apparatus, and equipment
- Structured physical fitness and wellness training
- Leadership opportunities and company-based teamwork
- Professional certification and credential opportunities
- Career preparation, interview readiness, and exposure to fire/EMS professionals

WHO YOU BECOME STARTS WITH WHAT YOU DO TODAY.