



Woodson Curriculum Night

Rising 9th graders
January 23, 2024

The presentation will
begin at 6:45

Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview
- Academics
- Activities
- Thinking ahead



Administrative and Student Services Teams



Kevin Greata, Principal

Demarco Brooks, Assistant Principal

Bomin Collins, Assistant Principal

Dr. Paula DiSalvo, Assistant Principal

Kathy Martin, Assistant Principal

Kelly O'Connell, Assistant Principal

Josh Peters, Director of Student Services

Blair Smith, Director of Student Activities

Warren Williams, Asst. Director of Student Activities

Melinda Conner, Dean of Academics

Eileen Oviatt, Systems of Support Advisor



Josh Peters, Director of Student Services

Jamie Korpacz, School Counselor

Brooke Metrisko, School Counselor

Adrienne Wood, School Counselor

Grady Ford, School Counselor

Elizabeth Walter, School Counselor

Victoria Powell, School Counselor

Ashley Demaree, School Counselor

Kate Travis, School Counselor

Elle Nguyen, School Counselor

Jenny Parker, CSS School Counselor

Angela Harrison, 504 Counselor

Christine Lieb-Mosley, College & Career Center

Kathleen Crosson, Testing Coordinator

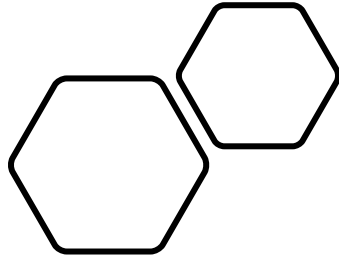
Debbie Glover, Transcript Assistant

Darlene Sheppard, Registrar

Casey Delaney, SIA

Meliza Silva, Parent Liaison

High School



Who do we
want
our students
to be
when they
graduate?



9th grade - Areas of Emphasis



ACADEMICS



COLLABORATION



CRITICAL
THINKING



STUDY SKILLS

Academics: Standard Diploma

| | Standard Credit | Verified Credit |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| English | 4 | 2 |
| Mathematics* | 3 | 1 |
| Laboratory Sciences* | 3 | 1 |
| History and Social Sciences* | 3 | 1 |
| Health and Physical Education | 2 | |
| World Language, Fine Arts, or CTE | 2 | |
| Economics and Personal Finance | 1 | |
| Electives | 4 | |
| Total credits | 22 | 5 |

Other diploma options available for students with an IEP

*specific disciplines are required

Academics: Advanced Diploma

| | Standard Credit | Verified Credit |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| English | 4 | 2 |
| Mathematics* | 4 | 1 |
| Laboratory Sciences* | 4 | 1 |
| History and Social Sciences* | 4 | 1 |
| Health and Physical Education | 2 | |
| World Language | 3 | |
| Fine Arts/CTE | 1 | |
| Econ & Personal Finance | 1 | |
| Electives | 3 | |
| Total credits | 26 | 5 |

Other diploma options available for students with an IEP

*specific disciplines are required

Verified Credits

Earned for passing the course and the SOL with a score of 400 or better.

1 – Math

1 – Science

1 – Social Studies

2 – English (taken in 11th grade)

Common 9th grade Schedule

English 9

World History/Geography 1

Biology

Math

Health and PE 9

World Language or Elective

Elective

Academics: Standard vs. Honors Courses

- Honors courses expand upon the standard curriculum
- Honors have more rigor, higher expectations, and are faster paced
- Honors Receive a 0.5 GPA bump
- Students should be prepared to be
 - Self-motivated, motivated to learn
 - Thinking critically & writing analytically
 - Willing to study & practice basic study skills
 - Ready to ask questions, work in groups

What are AP Courses?

When can my student take them?

- AP Courses are college level classes taught in high school. Students can potentially earn college credit based on their an end-of-year exam score
- Most AP Courses are for Juniors and Seniors with some exceptions. If a 9th or 10th grader is eligible to take an AP class their counselor will discuss that with them when they meet.

Departments

Let's hear a little from the department chairs

English



- English 9
- English 9 Honors
- World Civilizations (Eng 9 HN paired with World History HN)

English 9 Basics:

- Outside reading is expected at all levels
- Full-length essays will be written at all levels
- All VA English 9 standards addressed at all levels

| General Level | Honors Level |
|---|---|
| Read some full texts and some adapted versions | Read full texts of all texts, read classic texts |
| More work (readings, homework) done in class | More analysis/evaluation done in class; readings and homework at home |
| Typical outside commitment 1-1.5 hours per week | Typical outside commitment double that of general level |
| More scaffolded content | More self-directed, independent |
| Moderate pacing | Faster-paced |

English 9 Honors:

A great fit if...

- You love to read
- You are willing to be proactive with questions or concerns
- You are self-directed and independent
- You are willing to engage with the content

Social Studies



- World History 1
- World History Honors
- World Civilizations HN paired with Eng 9 HN

Social Studies: Honors or Standard?

- Honors may be a good fit if...
 - The student is interested in world history
 - The student is highly motivated to learn and succeed
 - The student has strong reading comprehension and writing skills
 - The student can manage their time effectively

| TOPIC | HONORS WORLD HISTORY I | STANDARD WORLD HISTORY I |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Time Commitment | 1 to 1.5 hours per week (depends on reading & comprehension skills) | .5 to 1 hour per week (depends on reading & comprehension skills) |
| Assigned Books | World History and Geography, McGraw Hill Selected readings from various sources; online resources available with textbook | World History and Geography, McGraw Hill |
| Homework | Chapter study guides or outlines for each textbook chapter; maps & charts; selected readings; document analysis | Chapter questions; Maps & charts; Selected readings; Document analysis |
| Assessments | Unit tests In-class essays & short answers Document analysis; Final exam 3 Project Based Assessments for verified credit | Unit tests Writing – short answers & essays 3 Project Based Assessments for verified credit |
| Weekly Reading Assignments | Usually one textbook chapter per week (every two to three classes) | One textbook chapter per 2 weeks |
| Projects | End of year project Other projects may be assigned during the year | Minor projects may be assigned during the year |

World Civilizations 1: English 9 Honors & World History Honors

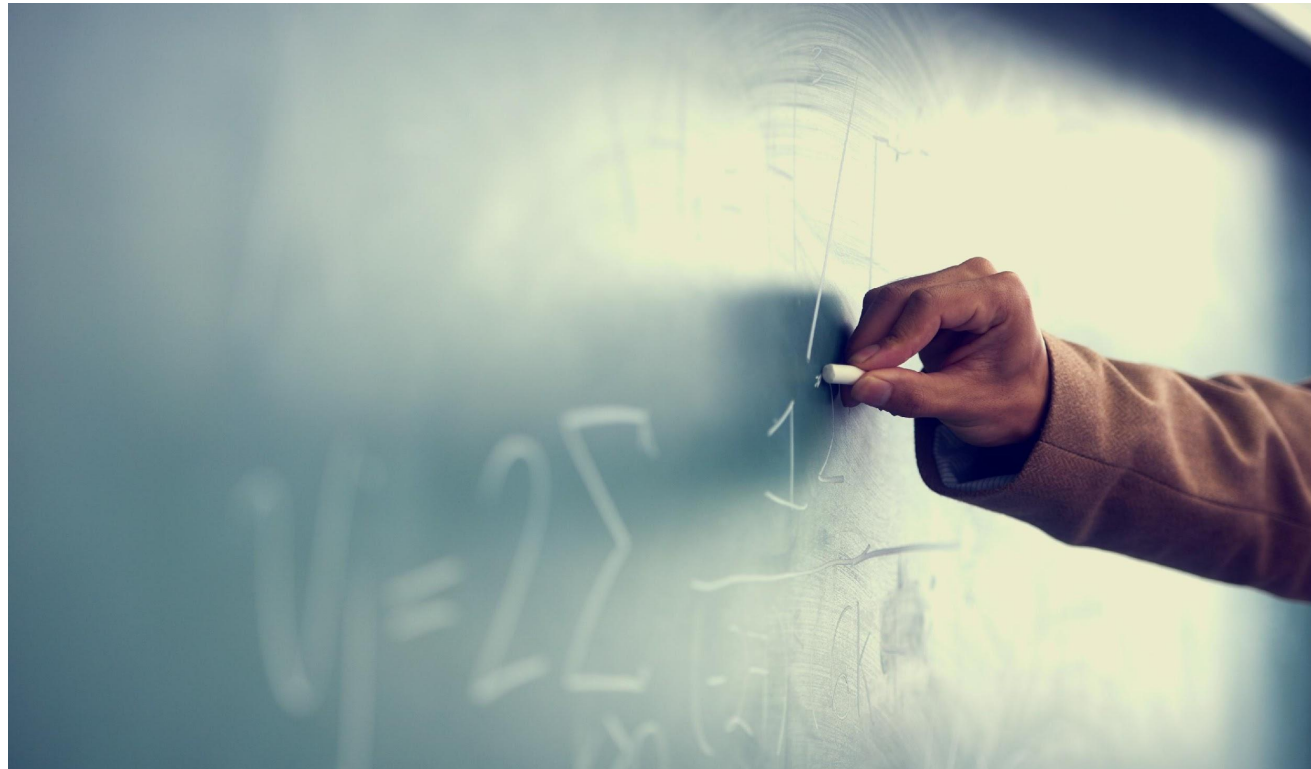
- One English teacher and one social studies teacher, two core subjects, one gradebook
- Teachers plan together so that students aren't overloaded on any given day
- Same skills are taught in stand-alone honors classes
- Same pacing as stand-alone honors
- Course is not harder than stand-alone honors courses, it is simply taught in a different environment
- Meets in the same room everyday at the same time
- Meeting everyday helps with the transition from middle school and builds more classroom rapport.

Science



- Biology
- Honors Biology (research component)

Math



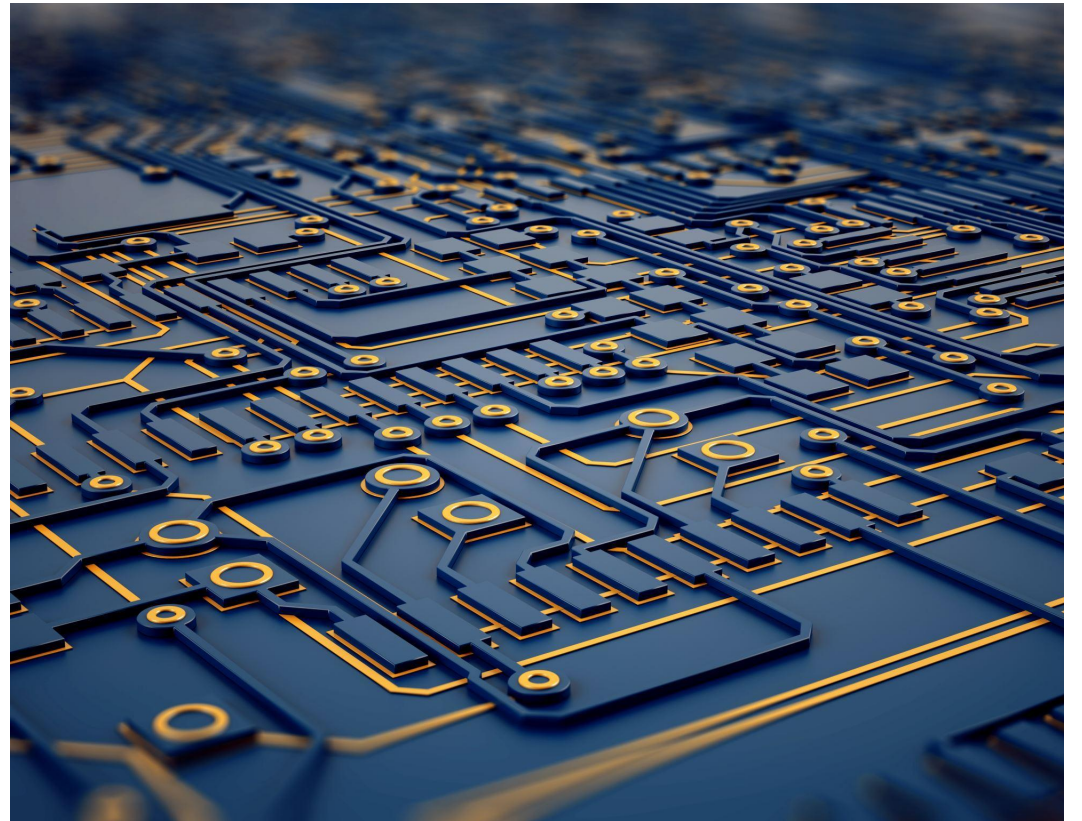
- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Geometry Honors
- Algebra 2
- Algebra 2 Honors
- AP Precalculus

Honors Math is Different

- More content is taught in Honors
- Material is taught at a faster pace
- A majority of the class is non-calculator
- Significantly more application of skills and knowledge

Computer Science

- Goal: All Woodson students should have exposure to computer science concepts before they graduate.
- Prerequisites: those who have completed Algebra 1 can sign up for CS Programming.
- Students who have yet to complete Algebra 1 can sign up for CS Foundations.
- Enrolling in computer science early opens up opportunities for higher level courses later.



The Computer Science Sequence

9th grade: CS Programming or
CS Foundations

10th grade: AP Computer Science A
(+1 GPA boost)

11th grade: CS Data Structures
(+1 GPA boost)

12th grade: CS Capstone
(+1 GPA boost)

World Languages



- **American Sign Language**
- **French**
- **German**
- **Latin**
- **Spanish**

World Languages: Advanced Diploma Requirements

- Three years of one language
- Two years of one language; two years of another
- Counselors and teachers will keep the requirements in mind as students are placed or moved



Spanish Immersion

- Students who have completed the FCPS immersion program through grade 8 are automatically placed at level 3
- Students with other immersion experiences (e.g, living abroad) may take the placement exam



Native/Heritage Speakers

- Students who already speak the language they wish to study at home--or have extensive experience living in a country where the language is spoken--may take Woodson's placement test. We are making arrangements with Frost for testing after students have made their course selections



World Language Credit Exam

- Given in the fall (November)
- Registration through counselors in October (firm deadline)
- Students must be able to write two well-developed essays
- Students may receive 1, 2, or 3 credits (depending on performance)
- Credits count toward Advanced Diploma
- More information can be found at

<https://www.fcps.edu/academics/high-school-academics-9-12/world-languages/credit-exam-world-languages>



Students who pass the credit exam

- One credit? *Go to Spanish, French, German 2*
 - Two credits? *Go to Spanish, French, German 3*
 - Three credits? *Go to Spanish, French, German 4*
- Or students may take level 1 of a different language*



Health and PE



9th Grade Health and PE

3 quarters of PE - includes CPR graduation requirement

1 quarter of Health - Includes Social/Emotional health and FLE

10th grade Health and PE - includes 2 quarters of PE, 1 quarter of health and 1 quarter of Driver's Education

9th grade Electives

English:

Film Study
Newspaper
Yearbook

Computer Science:

CS Programming (Alg 1
pre-requisite)
CS Foundations

Family/Consumer Science:

Life Planning

Fine Arts: Performing

Band
Choir
Orchestra
Guitar 1
Theatre Arts 1
Technical Theatre 1

Fine Arts: Visual Arts

Ceramics 1
Digital Art & Design 1
Photography
Sculpture 1
Studio Art & Design 1

**Students must choose 7 classes
and 2 alternate electives**

Business/CTE/Engineering:

Intro to Business & Marketing
Cybersecurity Fundamentals
STEM Design (STEM 1)
Electronics 1

General:

Strategies for Success

World Language:

American Sign Language
French
German
Latin
Spanish

Online Campus (OC) classes:

- Students in grades 9-12 may enroll in up to 2 FCPS OC classes per year (count as part of the 7 credits)
- Often used to access an elective (i.e. Chinese, Accounting) or solve a conflict
- self-motivation, discipline are important as classes are hybrid of asynchronous & synchronous learning

Special Education



- Services are determined by IEP team placement
- Contact case manager or school counselor with questions

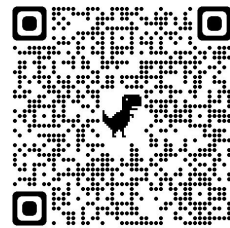



Frequently Asked Questions

Parent Support

What can I do as a parent?

- Talk to your student about:
 - importance of balance when selecting their schedule (academic, social, personal needs)
 - keep in mind demands of outside activities and responsibilities (sports, service, siblings)
- Check Parentvue to review course requests & grade.
- Check Schoology to access your student's progress throughout the year



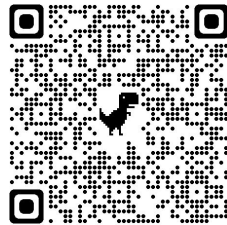
Scan here  for more information on how to access **ParentVUE**



Course Selection Conversation

What should our course selection conversation include?

- Listen and be involved in the course planning process
- Ask your student about their interest areas
- Ask about their post-secondary goals and which courses best support those plans
- Discuss your student's study skills (i.e. do they procrastinate?) and personal needs (i.e. sleep/rest)



Scan here  to access **ParentVUE** & view your child's selections

Can We Change Our Minds

What if we change our minds about a course?

- **March 14** is the deadline to change your mind about course requests for next year
- Based on total course request this spring, admin will evaluate how many sections of each class is needed and will consequently plan for staffing and hiring to support these classes for next year
- Because the master schedule is built based on spring requests, changes in the fall are selective based on immediate need. Details to come about that process



Scan here  to access the **Academic Advising** padlet

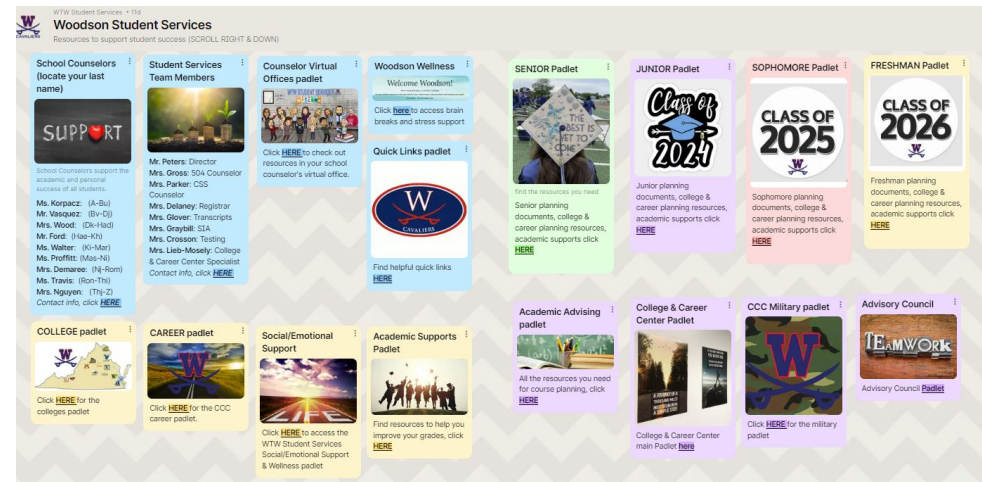


Woodson Student Services

School Counselors & Student Services Team

School Counselors support students with.....

- Academic Advising and planning
- College and Career planning
- Social/Emotional counseling



Students are assigned their counselor by last name. They may email and visit their counselor anytime!

Scan here  to access the main [Student Services padlet](#)

All students have access to WTW School Psychologist, School Social Worker, & College and Career Specialist



Remember:

**We want our students to be challenged
AND to thrive and feel healthy**

Balance of life, academics, rigor is key

A Message from our Registrar

Welcome to Woodson High School!

- New families to Fairfax County Public Schools should go to the [Woodson New Student Registration page](#) to complete the online form to request a registration appointment, and review the paperwork and steps needed to register a new student
- If you live in our boundary and are coming from an FCPS middle school other than Frost, make sure your current school counselor is aware you will be coming to Woodson and uses our course selection sheet
- We are closed to student transfers. If you do not live within the Woodson boundary, please see the [FCPS student transfer website](#) for additional information on submitting a transfer request to another school.
- **Darlene Sheppard** - Woodson HS Registrar (dmsheppard@fcps.edu)

Woodson Student Athletics & Activities

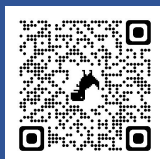
Students are encouraged to get involved!

Part of the high school experience is finding athletics and activities which are meaningful and fun!

Remember to focus on balance with activities and course load time and effort commitments



WTW
Athletics:



WTW Clubs:

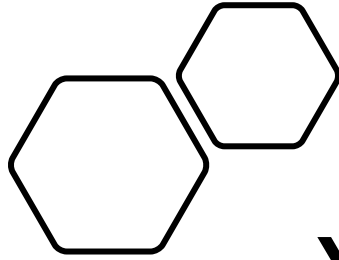


Hey Day is our
back-to-school club fair

Scan here  to access the **Athletics** and **Clubs**  pages



Thank you
for your
partnership



You have until
8pm to visit
with teachers in
the **Cafeteria**
for further
course
information

