



Woodson HS Curriculum Night

Rising 9th graders
January 15, 2025

Administrative and Student Services Teams



Kevin Greata, Principal
Michelle Case, Assistant Principal
Melinda Conner, Interim 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
Jack Blevins, Asst. Director of Student Activities
Katherine Stransky, Systems of Support Advisor

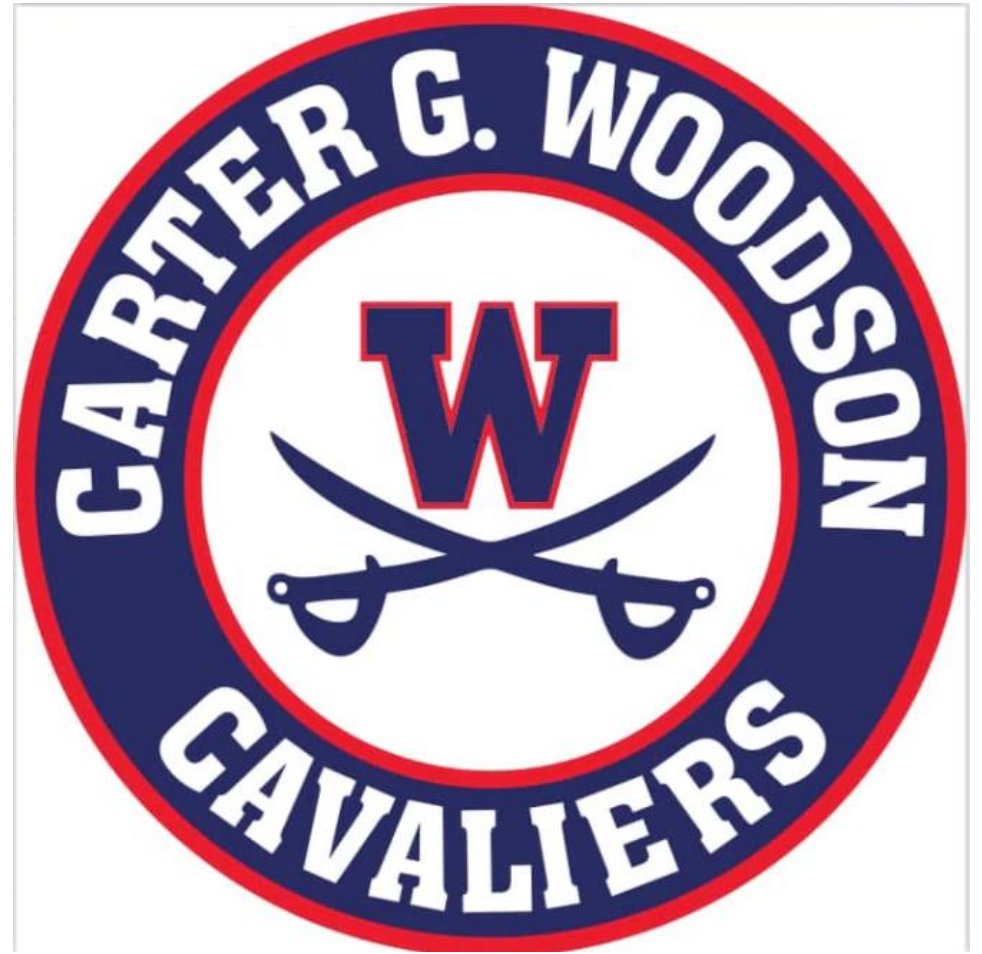


Josh Peters, Director of Student Services
Jamie Korpacz, School Counselor
Brooke Metrinko, School Counselor
Adrienne Wood, School Counselor
Grady Ford, School Counselor
Elizabeth Walter, School Counselor
Victoria Powell, School Counselor
Ashley Demaree, School Counselor
Rachel Bopp, School Counselor
Elle Nguyen, School Counselor

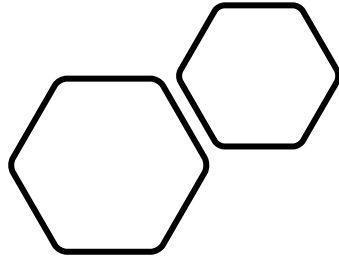
Isabelle Hegland, Interim School Counselor
Jenny Parker, School Counselor (CSS)
Angela Harrison, 504 Counselor
Christine Lieb-Mosley, College & Career Center
Kathleen Crosson, Testing Coordinator
Debbie Glover, Transcript Assistant
Darlene Sheppard, Registrar
Casey Delaney, Student Information Asst.
Meliza Silva, Parent Liaison
Alaina Andersen, Military Family Counselor

Agenda

- Introductions
- General Information
- Academic Departments
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Student Services/Activities



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 (incl. sequential 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 (incl. sequential electives)	3	
Total credits	26	5

Other diploma options available for students with an IEP

*specific disciplines are required

**passing score = 400

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 courses have more rigor, higher expectations, and are faster paced
- Honors courses receive a 0.5 GPA bump
- Successful honors students are:
 - Self-motivated and independent learners
 - Able to think critically & write 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 different than middle school Advanced Academics Program (AAP) courses
- 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 11th and 12th graders with some exceptions. If a 9th or 10th grader is interested in potentially taking an AP course, the student should discuss that with their current middle school counselor

Academic Departments

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*)
- AP Human Geography

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 independently 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

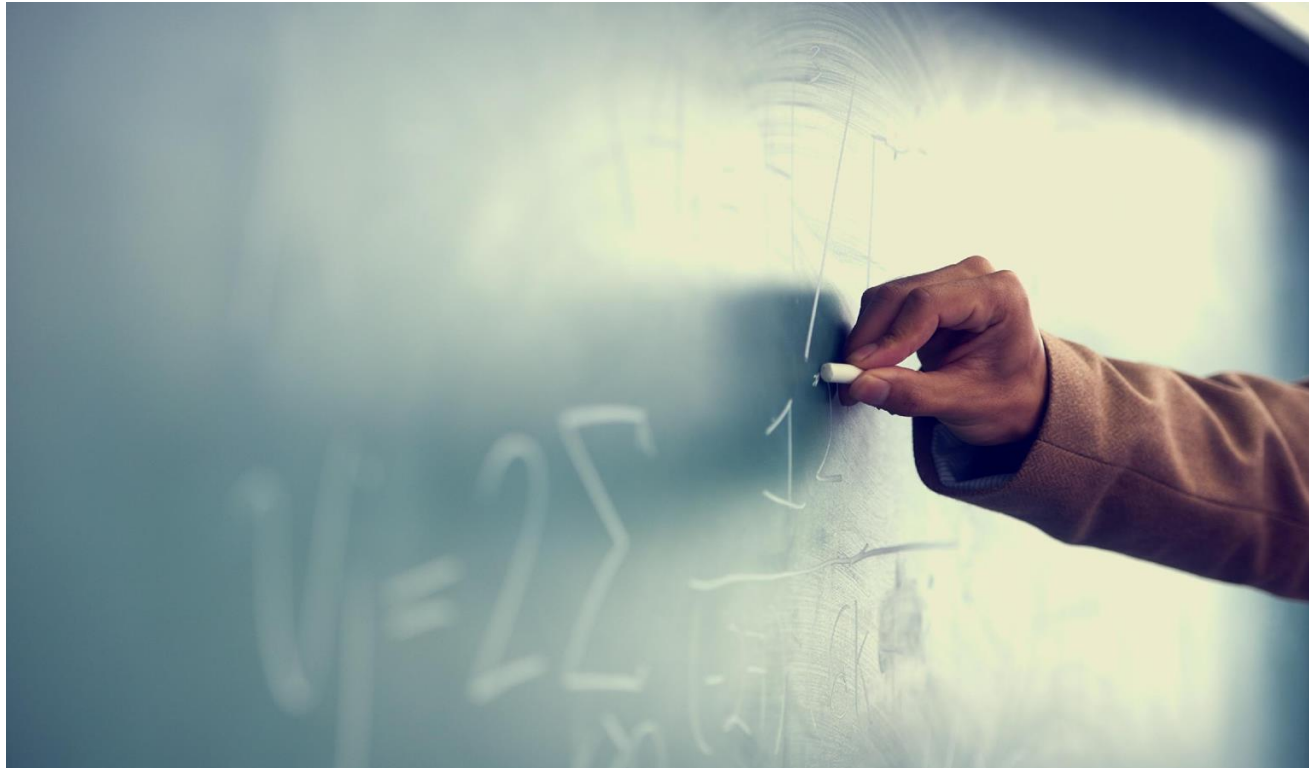
- One English teacher and one Social Studies teacher (two core subjects, one gradebook)
- Teachers plan together so that students are not overloaded on any given day
- Same skills taught that are covered in the stand-alone honors classes
- Same pacing as the stand-alone honors classes
- Course is not harder than stand-alone honors courses...it is simply taught in a different environment. Class size is larger than a typical class (45-50 students)
- Meets in the same room everyday at the same time
- Meeting everyday helps with the transition from middle school and builds more classroom rapport with teachers

Science



- Biology
- Honors Biology (research component)

Math



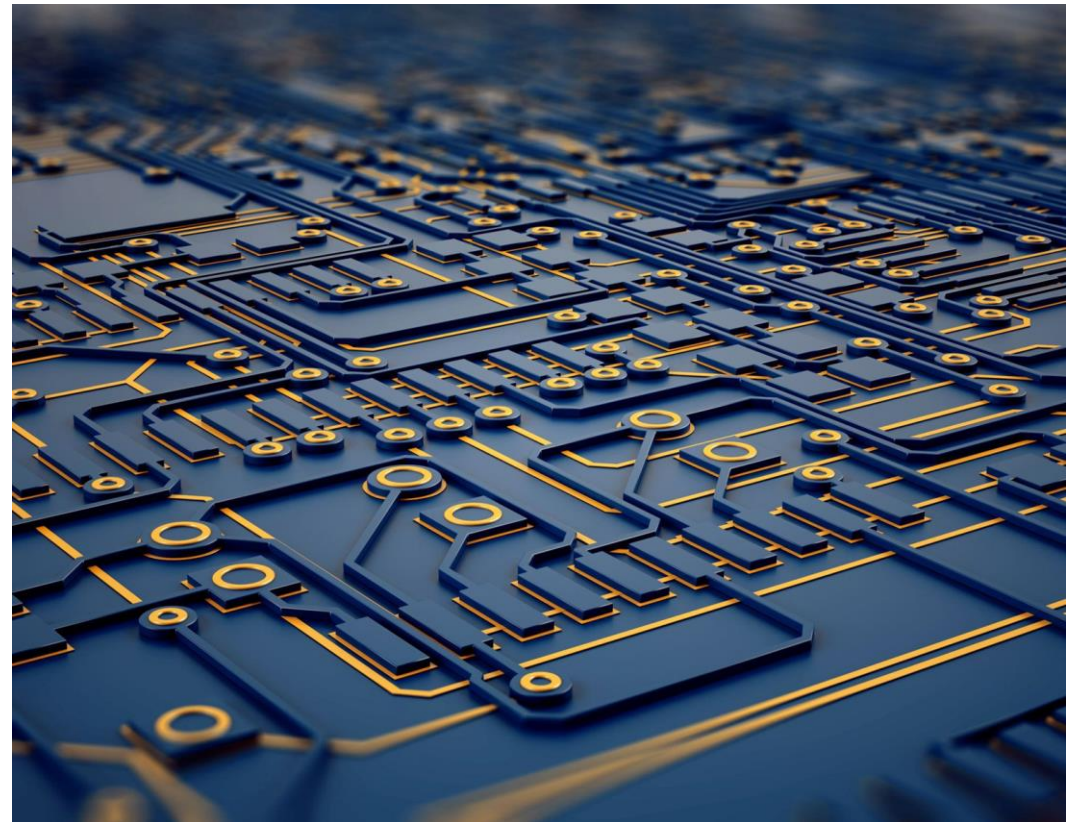
- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Geometry Honors
- Algebra 2
- Algebra 2 Honors
- AP Precalculus AB
- AP Precalculus BC

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



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 if they haven't taken the credit exam. We are making arrangements with Frost for testing.



World Language Credit Exam

- Administered in the fall (November)
- Over 50 languages available to test
- Registration through counselors in October (firm deadline in early Oct)
- Students must have significant experience in the language AND be able to write
- 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 in ASL, French, German, Latin, or Spanish who wish to continue

- One credit? *Go to level 2*
- Two credits? *Go to level 3*
- Three credits? *Go to level 4*

Or students may take level 1 of a different language



Immersion

- Students who have completed the FCPS immersion program through grade 8 in any language offered are automatically placed at level 3 in grade 9
- Students with other immersion experiences (e.g, living abroad) may take the placement exam if desired--see your school counselor



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

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
Studio Art & Design 1

Business/CTE/Engineering:

Cybersecurity Fundamentals
Electronics 1
Marketing 1
STEM Design (STEM 1)

English:

Film Study
Newspaper
Yearbook

Computer Science:

CS Programming (Alg 1
pre-requisite)
CS Foundations

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

General:

Sports Medicine
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, Fashion Careers, etc) or solve a conflict
- Self-motivation, discipline are important as classes are hybrid of asynchronous & synchronous learning

Special Education

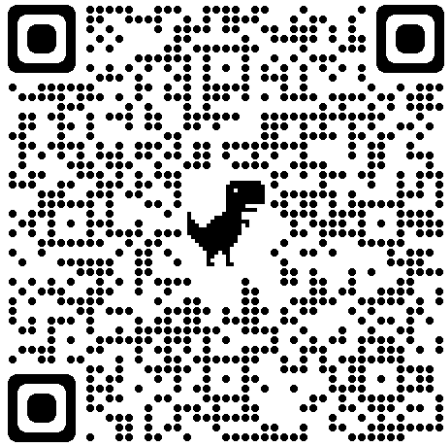


- Services are determined by IEP team placement
- Contact current case manager at Frost for questions



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, grades, and attendance.
- Check Schoology to access your student's progress throughout the year

Scan the QR code 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 areas of interest
- 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 the QR code to access the **Woodson HS Academic Advising website**



Course Request Changes



What if we change our minds about a course?

- Your middle school will communicate the deadline to make a change to a course request for next year (can't always guarantee changes)
- Based on the total course request numbers this spring, administration will evaluate how many sections of each class are needed and will plan for staffing and hiring needs to support these classes for next year
- Two week course change window available in the fall (after Labor Day)

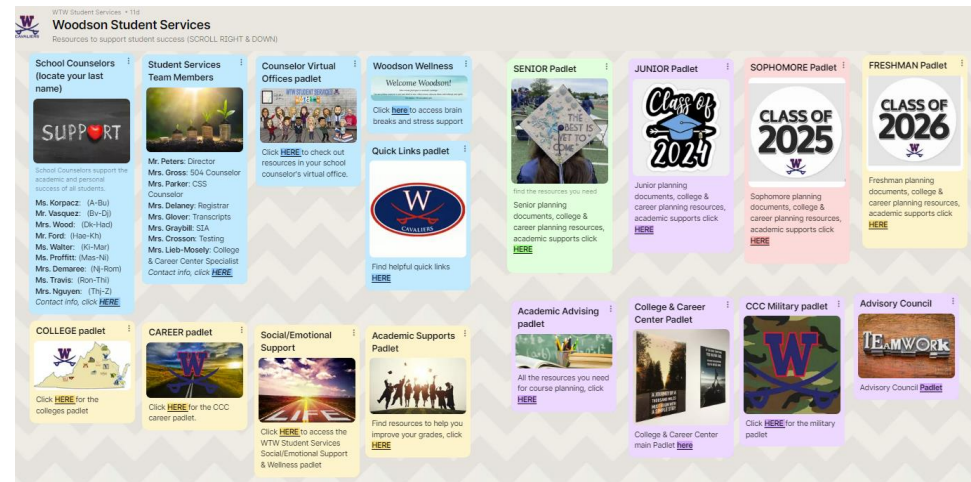
Scan the QR code to access the [Academic Advising padlet](#)



School Counselors & Student Services Team

- Academic Advising and planning
- College and Career planning
- Social/Emotional counseling
- New Student Registration

Woodson Student Services



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



Scan the QR code to access the **Student Services padlet**



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

CGW
Athletics:



CGW Clubs:



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



Hey Day is our back-to-school club fair

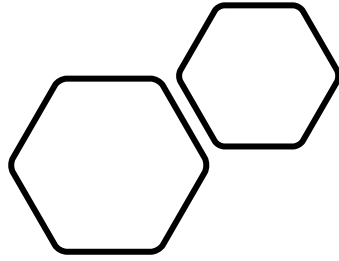
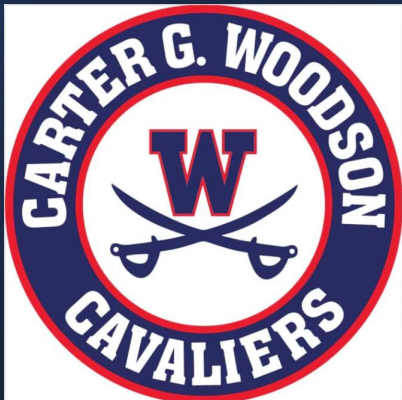


Remember:

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

Balance of life, academics, rigor is key

Thank you
for your
partnership



The **cafeterias** will
be open until 8pm
for you to visit
department tables
for additional
information