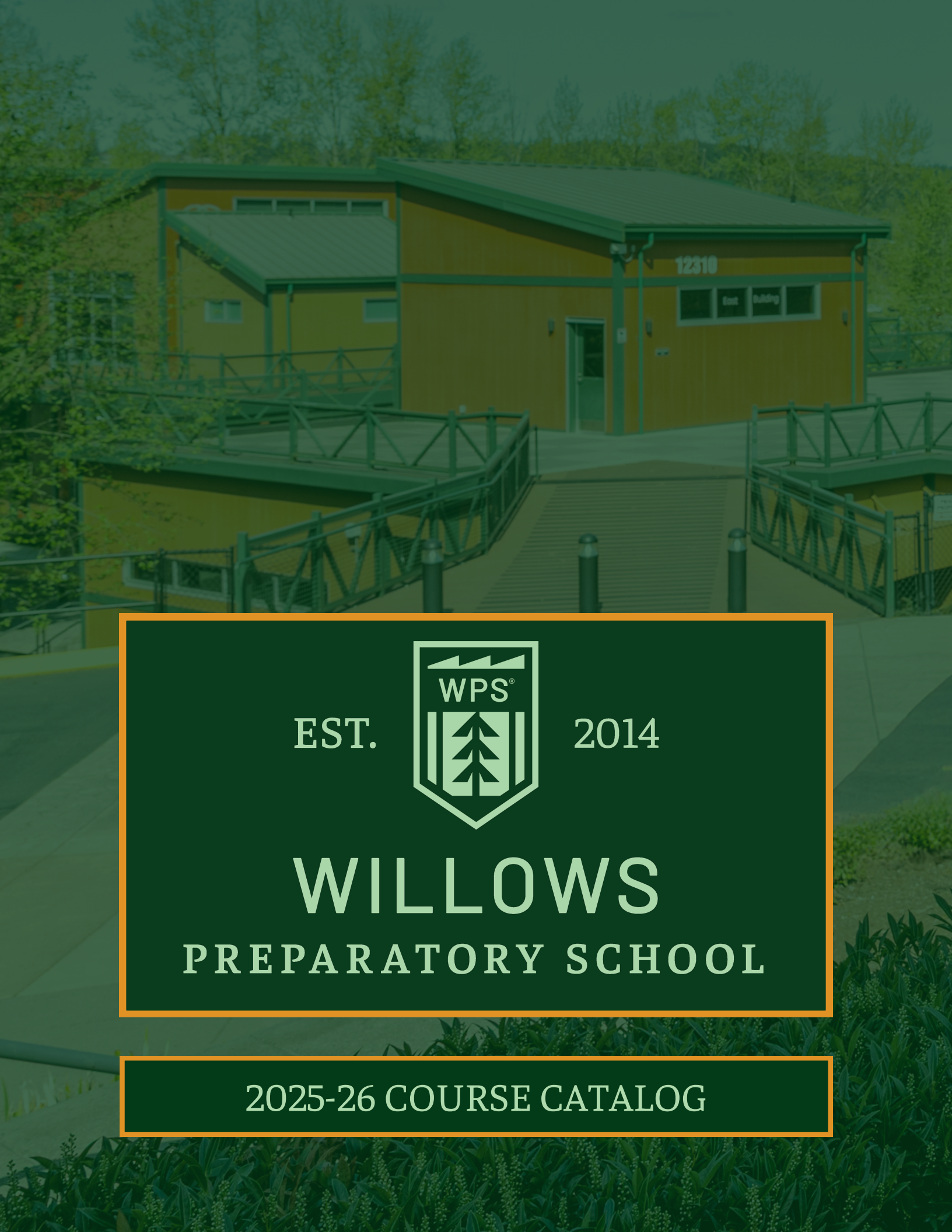




EST.



2014

WILLOWS

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

2025-26 COURSE CATALOG



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Letter from Director of Learning

At Willows Prep, we are proud to support each student through a thoughtfully designed and deeply meaningful learning experience.

As an IB World School, we offer both the **Middle Years Programme (MYP)** and the **Diploma Programme (DP)**. These internationally respected programs are not simply labels—they reflect our unwavering commitment to nurturing principled, knowledgeable, and caring young people who are prepared to thrive in a complex, interconnected world. There is no better student-centered education than the Willows combination of the comprehensive rigor of the IB Programme combined with our small class sizes, highly invested teachers, and commitment to know and respond to each individual learner.

The course descriptions here are just the beginning. They describe the basic scope of each course, but within each class is both flexibility and depth – hallmarks of a Willows education. Because we care about excellence in both support and challenge, we create opportunities for students at many levels of mastery. To promote additional rigor, we offer extension opportunities in subjects such as math. For students experiencing periods of challenge, we offer additional office hours as well as our formal student support program. All students who progress through Willows confidently and independently develop the skills necessary to navigate the world beyond high school in a way uniquely suited to their personalities and learning profiles.

We are proud to be accredited by Cognia and the National Independent Private Schools Association (NIPSA); to be authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization; and to be a Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS) affiliate school. These accreditations and affiliations reflect our commitment to educational excellence, ethical leadership, and continuous improvement.

Most importantly, we believe in the joy of learning. Our classrooms welcome inquiry, spark creativity, and foster deep respect for our community of capable and unique scholars. The IB Learner Profile traits—such as being inquirers, thinkers, communicators, and risk-takers—are not just aspirations; they are the foundational principles which are woven into every lesson, project, and conversation.

We invite you to explore this catalog and discover the wide array of courses and opportunities available to you. With every subject, you will find pathways that challenge, inspire, and prepare you for a lifetime of learning and leadership.

Warmly,

Mary Ewart, Ed.D.

Associate Head of School & Director of Learning



Grading Scale and Assessment

Willows Preparatory School uses the following grading scale based on the overall percentage a student earns in a class.

Letter Grade	Percentage Range	GPA Equivalent
A	93 - 100%	4.0
A-	90 - 92%	3.7
B+	87 - 89%	3.3
B	83 - 86%	3.0
B-	80 - 82%	2.7
C+	77 - 79%	2.3
C	73 - 76%	2.0
C-	70 - 72%	1.7
D+	67 - 69%	1.3
D	60 - 66%	1.0
NC	Below 59%	--

Assessments at Willows Prep are divided into two categories: formative and summative.

Formative assessments are opportunities for students, teachers and families to gauge student understanding and identify areas of comprehension along with areas to focus on to improve learning during a learning experience or instructional unit. Formative assessments can be graded as credit/no credit or as a percentage. All MYP and DP students will receive a minimum of two formative scores each week. Combined, all formative assessments are worth 20% of a student's overall course grade.

Summative assessments are opportunities for students, teachers and families to measure student understanding upon completion of a learning experience or instructional unit. Summative assessments are graded utilizing a percentage. Additionally, all students will be given narrative feedback including areas of strength as well as areas to focus on for additional learning, along with an IB rubric score for each summative assessment completed. All MYP students will receive a minimum of two summative scores for each of the four IB criterion in each course each semester. All DP students will receive a minimum of four summative scores for each course each semester. Combined, all summative assessments are worth 80% of a student's overall course grade.



Standardized Assessments

Students at WPS participate in a variety of standardized assessments throughout their educational experience.

NWEA MAP Test

The MAP Growth test is a computer-adaptive exam which seeks to determine a student's current level of understanding, with the goal of providing growth data over time. WPS students take this exam twice a year, once in the Fall and once in the Spring, while enrolled in 5th – 8th grade. In 9th and 10th grade, WPS students take this exam once a year in the Spring. MAP Growth test results are shared with students and families after each exam.

PSAT

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Qualifying Test is a test structured similarly to the SAT and is given to 9th and 10th grade WPS students in October each year. This test has the same sections and timing of the SAT, and allows our students the opportunity to practice for the SAT while also serving as a qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship program.

SAT

The SAT is test used by some colleges and universities as a data point in admission decisions. Students in 10th and 11th grade at WPS are given the SAT in the Spring every year. This allows students to complete this exam during the school day rather than by registering for a weekend date.

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

The Advanced Placement exams are the culminating exams that occur at the end of all AP courses. These exams are optional for students who have completed the AP exam. Students who choose to take these exams have the potential to earn college credit based on exam score and dependent on the college or university the student attends.

Diploma Programme (DP) Exams

The Diploma Programme exams are the culminating exams that occur at the end of the DP courses. These exams are options for Course Program students and required for Diploma Programme students. Students who choose to take these exams have the potential to earn college credit based on exam score and dependent on the college or university the student attends.



Our Middle School Course follow the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) and aims to develop active learners and internationally minded individuals who empathize with others and pursue lives of purpose. We underscore the importance of 'learning how to learn', enabling students to take intellectual risks and make practical connections between their studies the real world.

This course guide gives you information about all courses that may be offered at Willows Preparatory School. Middle School Students enroll in a full 7-period schedule. Courses listed in this catalog will be offered based on enrollment.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

FOUR YEARS OF:

(taken in 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades)

- Language & Literature
- Individuals & Societies
- Mathematics
- Science
- Language Acquisition

5 SEMESTERS OF:

(taken in 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades)

- Physical & Health Education

3 SEMESTERS OF:

(taken in 5th or 6th, 7th and 8th grades)

- Design Technology

7 SEMESTERS OF:

(taken in 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades)

- Visual & Performing Arts

3 SEMESTERS OF:

(taken 5th & 6th grades)

- Navigating Middle School (5th)
- Skills for Learning & Inquiry (6th)

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

Willows Prep Students have the option to receive high school credit for mathematics, science, and Spanish courses taken during 8th grade. These courses, taken at WPS in 8th grade, are included in WPS students' 9th grade transcripts. If a family determines they do not want these courses added to their student's high school transcript, they need to notify the Director of Curriculum and the Registrar with this request.

- Mathematics 8: Integrated Algebra Foundations includes all necessary topics to receive high school credit for Algebra I.
- Pre-DP Biology is a high school course that 8th grade students may take.
- Spanish 2 includes the content of a typical second year HS Spanish course.

Use the Planning Guide to map out your four-year middle school plan for the required 7-period schedule.



Middle School

PLANNING GUIDE

5TH GRADE	6TH GRADE	7TH GRADE	8TH GRADE
Language & Literature	Language & Literature	Language & Literature	Language & Literature
Language Acquisition	Language Acquisition	Language Acquisition	Language Acquisition
Individuals & Societies	Individuals & Societies	Individuals & Societies	Individuals & Societies
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
Science	Science	Science	Science
Physical & Health Education <i>(1 year)</i> Navigating Middle School <i>(1 year)</i>	Physical & Health Education <i>(1 semester)</i> Skills for Inquiry & Learning <i>(1 semester)</i>	Physical & Health Education <i>(1 semester)</i> Design Technology <i>(1 semester)</i>	Physical & Health Education <i>(1 semester)</i> Design Technology <i>(1 semester)</i>
Visual & Performing Arts/Design Technology <i>(2 semesters - choose 2)</i>	Visual & Performing Arts/Design Technology <i>(2 semesters - choose 2)</i>	Visual & Performing Arts <i>(2 semesters - choose 2)</i>	Visual & Performing Arts <i>(2 semesters - choose 2)</i>

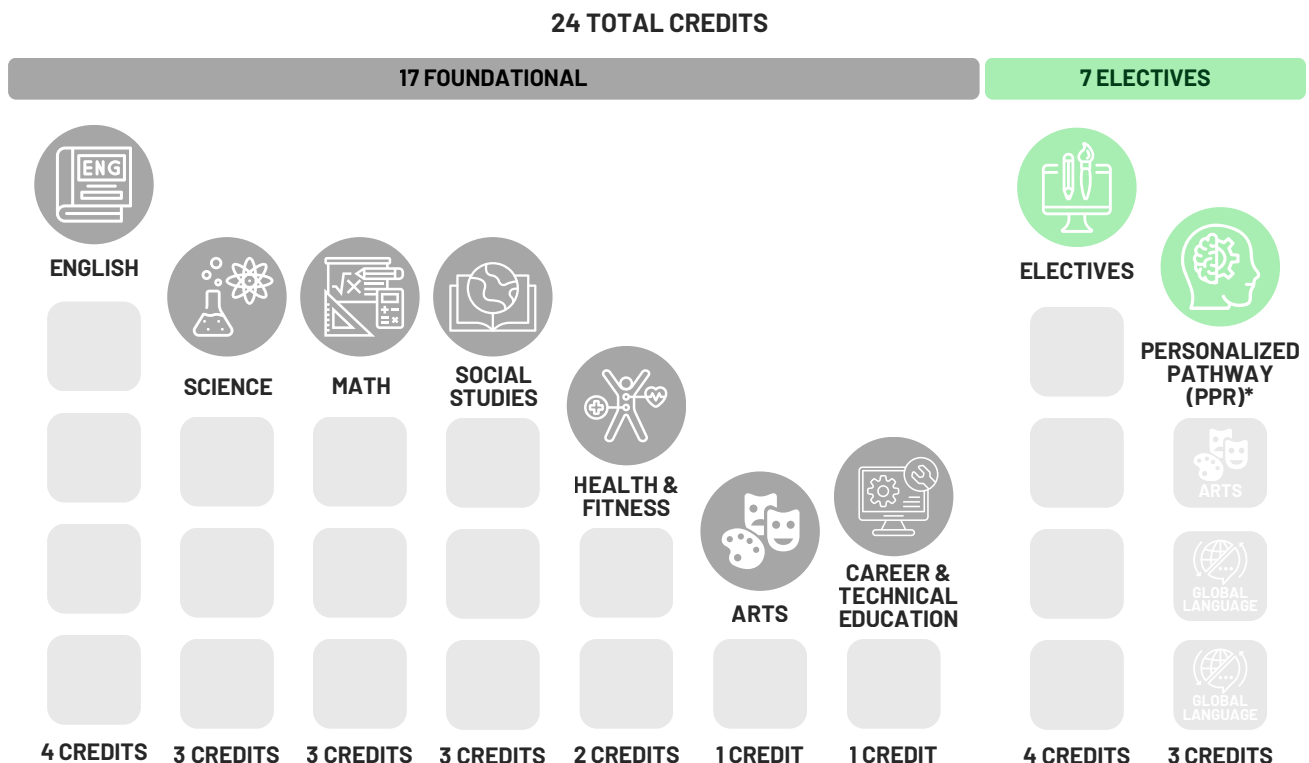
Multiple course options may be offered in each subject. Please consult the Course Descriptions for detailed information about course offerings.



Our High School courses follow the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) for 9th and 10th grades as well as the Diploma Program (DP) for 11th and 12th grades. The MYP (Grades 9–10) at Willows Prep aims to develop active learners and internationally-minded individuals who empathize with others and pursue lives of purpose. We underscore the importance of ‘learning how to learn’, enabling students to take intellectual risks and make practical connections between their studies and real-world scenarios.

Our IB Diploma Programme pushes the boundaries of traditional education with courses that expand thinking and nurture passions. The DP at Willows Prep is internationally recognized for its breadth and depth, creating scholars ready for success at university and throughout their lives and careers.

Willows Prep meets and exceeds all Washington State graduation requirements. The Washington State graduation requirements, which include 24 credits of high school coursework, are neatly summarized in the graphic below:



* Personalized Pathway Requirements (PPR) are electives in any subject that align with the student's interests and their High School and Beyond Plan. The arts and world language credits can be replaced with other electives, based on the student's plan.

** Local districts might have additional course or credit requirements.



The typical high school student at Willows Prep completes 29 high school credits.

It is important to note that students at WPS have the option to complete the full IB Diploma Programme or to complete the WPS Course Program. Both programs lead to a high school diploma that is well-recognized by colleges and universities.

Completion of the Course Program includes 29 high school credits but has additional flexibility around the Global Language requirements and the student choice course(s).

Completion of the IB Diploma Programme includes 29 high school credits and culminates in rigorous, international examinations. These exams are administered by WPS faculty and staff in accordance with all International Baccalaureate policies. Depending on the score(s) achieved and the college or university, college credit may be awarded.

All IB Diploma Programme courses offered at WPS are offered at both the Standard Level (SL) and the Higher Level (HL). SL and HL are used to indicate the number of hours of new content covered in the course. All SL courses have 150 hours of prescribed content. All HL courses have 240 hours of prescribed content. Though students in the Diploma Programme can take 4 HL courses, WPS does not encourage students to take more than the 3 required HL courses for the Diploma Programme.

Students interested in either program work closely with the Director of Learning and Director of Future Pathways to determine the best course sequence to match student goals, interests, and talents.



THE WILLOWS IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

The IB Diploma Programme is an internationally-respected, well-rounded, rigorous college-preparatory program. It is based on 5 standard elements:

1. Required IB coursework:
 - a. Up to 4 High Level (HL) courses. HL courses require more hours and cover additional content
 - b. At least 2 Standard Level (SL) courses; one SL course must be at least 2 years
2. Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course to include essay and exhibition
3. An extended essay (EE)
4. Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) portfolio
5. IB exams
 - a. Internal Assessment (IA) by teacher.
 - b. External Assessment graded by IB with a 1-7 score
 - i. Scores of 4+ are considered passing
 - ii. A score of 4 is considered for college credit
 - iii. All WA State colleges award credit for 4+ scores

The IB Diploma can be earned in addition to the WA State diploma. Some colleges and universities award additional credit for earning the IB diploma.

To earn an IB diploma, a student must:

1. Earn at least 24 points from IB course exams
 - a. at least 12 points from HL exams
 - b. at least 9 points from SL exams
 - c. cannot receive a 1 on any subject exam
 - d. cannot earn more than two 2s in any subject
 - e. cannot earn three 3s or below in any subject
 - f. must earn a D or above in TOK and the EE
 - g. must complete the CAS, meeting all 7 learning outcomes

At WPS, every high school student receives personalized guidance with selecting their DP program coursework and completing their requirements.



This guide gives you information about all courses that may be offered at Willows Preparatory School. High School Students enroll in a full 7-period schedule. Courses listed in this catalog will be offered based on enrollment.

The following is a sample of the typical enrollment for high school at WPS.

9TH GRADE	10TH GRADE
Language & Literature – 1.0 credit Individuals & Societies – 1.0 credit Spanish 3 – 1.0 credit Pre-DP Science choice – 1.0 credit Integrated Mathematics II – 1.0 credit Physical & Health Education – 1.0 credit Design Technology – 0.5 credit Art Elective – 0.5 credit Art Elective – 0.5 credit	Language & Literature – 1.0 credit Individuals & Societies – 1.0 credit Spanish 4 – 1.0 credit Pre-DP Science choice – 1.0 credit AP Statistics or AP Precalculus – 1.0 credit Physical & Health Education – 1.0 credit Design Technology – 0.5 credit Art Elective – 0.5 credit Art Elective – 0.5 credit
11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
DP Language & Literature 1 – 1.0 credit DP Global Politics 1 or DP History 1 – 1.0 credit DP Spanish 1 – 1.0 credit DP Science 1 – 1.0 credit DP Mathematics: AA1 or AI1 – 1.0 credit DP Choice Course 1 – 1.0 credit Theory of Knowledge 1 – 0.5 credit Elective Course – 0.5 credit	DP Language & Literature 2 – 1.0 credit DP Global Politics 2 or DP History 2 – 1.0 credit DP Spanish 2 – 1.0 credit DP Science 2 – 1.0 credit DP Mathematics: AA2 or AI2 – 1.0 credit DP Choice Course 2 – 1.0 credit Theory of Knowledge 2 – 0.5 credit Elective Course – 0.5 credit



9TH GRADE	10TH GRADE
Language & Literature	Language & Literature
Language Acquisition	Language Acquisition
Individuals & Societies	Individuals & Societies
Science	Science
Mathematics	Mathematics
Physical & Health Education <i>(1 semester)</i> Design Technology <i>(1 semester)</i>	Physical & Health Education <i>(1 semester)</i> Design Technology <i>(1 semester)</i>
Visual & Performing Arts <i>(2 semesters - choose 2)</i>	Visual & Performing Arts/ Teacher's Assistant <i>(2 semesters - choose 2)</i>

Multiple course options may be offered in each subject. Please consult the Course Descriptions for detailed information about course offerings.



11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
DP Language & Literature (SL/HL)	DP Language & Literature (SL/HL)
DP Language Acquisition (SL/HL) <i>(Optional: Ab Initio)</i>	DP Language Acquisition (SL/HL)
DP Individuals & Societies (SL/HL) <i>(Up to 2 courses may be chosen)</i>	DP Individuals & Societies (SL/HL) <i>(Up to 2 courses may be chosen)</i>
DP Science (SL/HL) <i>(Up to 2 courses may be chosen)</i>	DP Science (SL/HL) <i>(Up to 2 courses may be chosen)</i>
DP Mathematics (SL/HL)	DP Mathematics (SL/HL)
Theory of Knowledge (TOK) (1 semester) Visual & Performing Arts/Teacher's Assistant (1 semester)	Theory of Knowledge (TOK) (1 semester) Visual & Performing Arts/Teacher's Assistant (1 semester)

All DP courses (with the exception of TOK) are two-year courses. Options picked in Grade 11 will be carried over and continued in Grade 12.

Multiple course options may be offered in each subject. Please consult the Course Descriptions for detailed information about course offerings.



Language & Literature Sequence

Middle School

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE 5



**LANGUAGE & LITERATURE 6:
ANCIENT & CLASSIC LITERATURE -
ECHOES OF THE PAST**



**LANGUAGE & LITERATURE 7:
JOURNEY THROUGH MODERN &
CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL TEXTS**



**LANGUAGE & LITERATURE 8:
VOICES OF CHANGE: IDENTITY,
BELONGING, AND POWER**

High School

**LANGUAGE & LITERATURE 9/10:
NARRATIVE OF THE HUMAN
EXPERIENCE**



**LANGUAGE & LITERATURE 9/10:
MACHINES, ALIENS, AND THE HUMAN
CONDITION**



DP LANGUAGE & LITERATURE 1, 2
GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12
COURSE LENGTH: 2 YEARS



Language & Literature Courses

MYP (*GRADES 5-10*)

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE 5

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 5

In this course, students will work with the application of language skills encompassing vocabulary enrichment, reading comprehension, and written expression. Our students will also practice six genres of writing: narrative, persuasive, descriptive, poetry, essay, and digital essay.

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE 6:

ANCIENT & CLASSIC LITERATURE: ECHOES OF THE PAST

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 6

In this course, students will work with a variety of literary and nonliterary texts ranging in time period, place, and genre. Students will develop analytical and organizational skills in order to create written texts which utilize appropriate grammar, spelling and vocabulary. In addition to written communication, students will verbally display their comprehension of texts with attention to the connections between theme and literary devices.

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE 7:

JOURNEY THROUGH MODERN & CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL TEXTS CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 7

In this course, students will examine texts from authors around the world to learn about different points of view that challenge and grow student perspective. This course aims to lead students to become independent learners and question the world around them. Through an exploration of classic literary works, students will strengthen their skills in summary, using evidence, and analysis. In the latter half the year, students will focus on the historical and social contexts of literature, nonliterary texts, and argumentative writing.



Language & Literature Courses

MYP (GRADES 5-10)

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE 8:

VOICES OF CHANGE: IDENTITY, BELONGING, AND POWER

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 8

This course explores the interconnected themes of identity, power, and belonging through the lens of American and global literature. Students will engage with a range of literary and nonliterary texts that highlight diverse voices and lived experiences, encouraging critical inquiry and interdisciplinary connections. Through close reading, discussion, and analysis, students will examine how individuals navigate systems of power, confront inequality, and seek inclusion and connection. Students will build their analytical and expressive skills across a variety of formats, including essays, discussions, presentations, and multimedia projects.

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE 9/10:

NARRATIVE OF THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10

In this course, students will gain an understanding of literary structure through their exploration of the Hero's Journey and modern storytelling. Students will develop their verbal communication, creativity, and analytic skills through class discussions, presentations, and creative writing. At the end of this course students will have a well-rounded understanding of the origin and development of storytelling through an investigation of various classic and modern examples of the Hero's Journey.

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE 9/10:

MACHINES, ALIENS, AND THE HUMAN CONDITION

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10

In this course, students will conduct a year-long deep dive on genre and intertextuality through a focus on the development and evolution of the science-fiction genre. Students will grow their analytical and communication skills through a range of discussions, projects, and writing exercises. Through tracking the gradual progress of one particular genre through myriad authors, cultures, and global shifts, students will gain a more holistic understanding of the storytelling medium and how authors both perpetuate and subvert social norms through literature.



Language & Literature Courses

DP (*GRADES 11-12*)

DP LANGUAGE & LITERATURE 1,2

CREDITS: 2.0

GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12

In this two-year course students will learn about the complex and dynamic nature of language with particular attention to the nuance of translation. They will explore the effects of authorial choices and demonstrate their understanding in a variety of settings, texts, and mediums. Students will develop their skills in analysis, collaboration, communication, and creativity through explorations of different cultural contexts, perspectives, and forms.

SL students will work with 4 texts, complete an internal oral examination, and two external written examinations in the spring of their second year.

HL students will work with 6 texts, write an extended essay, complete an internal oral examination, and two external writing examinations in the spring of their second year.



Language Acquisition Sequence

Middle School

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH

SPANISH 1A*

SPANISH 1B*

SPANISH 2*

High School

SPANISH 3

SPANISH 4

DP SPANISH 1,2

GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12
COURSE LENGTH: 2 YRS

**SPANISH AB INITIO 1,2:
STANDARD LEVEL (SL)**

GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12
COURSE LENGTH: 2 YRS

DP = SL or HL

*Spanish 1A, Spanish 1B, and Spanish 2 can be used for HS credit and placed on HS transcript



Language Acquisition Courses

MYP (*GRADES 5-10*), (*GRADES 11-12*)

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 5

In this course, students learn and review numbers and letters in Spanish. They will be able to say simple greetings and introduce themselves. 5th grade Spanish reviews different Hispanic countries and cultures. Furthermore, students will be able to identify common nouns and cognates.

SPANISH 1A

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 6, 7, 8, 9

In this course, students will study grammar, vocabulary, and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will be working on the four parts of language which are speaking, listening, reading, and writing with a focus on learning greetings, daily expressions, basic grammar, and basic present-tense conjugations.

SPANISH 1B

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10

In this course, students will review vocabulary from Spanish 1A and refine their abilities in speaking, listening, reading, and writing with a focus on the conjugation of important verbs – including stem-changing and reflexive verbs and an introduction to past preterit. By the end of the year, students will be able to read and write multiple paragraphs in Spanish with correct present tense grammar.

SPANISH 2

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10, 11

In this course, students will further develop their knowledge of Spanish grammar, vocabulary, and the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students are introduced to irregular verbs, imperfect tense, and basic commands. Spanish 2 vocabulary focuses on daily routines, plans, the weather, time expressions, and more. By the end of the year, students should read and write multiple paragraphs in Spanish using comparatives and multiple verb tenses.



Language Acquisition Courses

MYP (*GRADES 5-10*), (*GRADES 11-12*)

SPANISH 3

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12

In this course, students will apply their knowledge of the Spanish language to demonstrate their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Spanish 3 vocabulary includes occupations, feelings, travel, and more. Students will work towards mastery of two essential past tenses in Spanish, the preterit and imperfect. By the end of the year, students will be able to understand nuances between both tenses and use each appropriately in reference to the past.

SPANISH 4

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12

In this course, students will be introduced to the present subjunctive, the future tense and conditional tense. Spanish 4 vocabulary includes technology, education and career paths, the environment and natural world, as well as literary and film genres. By the end of the year, students will explore Spanish literature and demonstrate competency in writing reviews and reflections.



Language Acquisition Courses

DP (*GRADES 11-12*)

DP SPANISH 1,2:

CREDITS: 2.0

GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12

in this advanced two-year course, students will extend the range and complexity of the target language. They continue to develop their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar, as well as their conceptual understanding of how language works, in order to construct, analyze, and evaluate arguments on a variety of topics relating to course content and the target language culture(s).

SL includes a wide range of written and spoken texts, with a focus on descriptions of events, feelings, and wishes. Students will write texts for a variety of purposes including to describe situations, narrate events, make comparisons, explain problems, and state and support their personal opinions on topics relating to course content. At this level, it is expected that students initiate and maintain the flow of conversations and discussions.

HL includes a wide range of written and spoken texts, including the study of two literary works originally written in the target language. At this level, students will present and develop their ideas and opinions on a variety of topics, both orally and in writing, with a focus on the ability to construct and support arguments with explanations and examples.

SPANISH AB INITIO 1,2:

STANDARD LEVEL (SL)

CREDITS: 2.0

GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12

In this two-year course, students will develop fundamental knowledge of the Spanish Language. This course introduces students to basic Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation, emphasizing practical communication in everyday situations. Through engaging activities, interactive exercises, and cultural exploration, students will build confidence in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in. This Spanish course focuses on developing conversational abilities and understanding Spanish-speaking cultures, providing a solid base for future language studies. This course is appropriate for students who have no more than a year and a half of formal study in Spanish, including those who enter the WPS program in high school with no prior foreign language credit in Spanish.



Individuals & Societies Sequence

Middle School

INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES 5

INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES 6:
THE RISE OF CIVILIZATION & KINGDOMS

INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES 7:
DEVELOPMENT OF A GLOBAL WORLD
(1500s-1900s)

INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES 8:
A THEMATIC HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES
(WA State included)

High School

INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES 9/10:
THE ADVENT OF CIVILIZATION:
TRACING HUMAN ORIGINS

INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES 9/10:
GLOBAL HISTORY THROUGH GRAPHIC NOVELS:
THE MODERN AGE

DP GLOBAL POLITICS 1, 2
GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12
COURSE LENGTH: 2 YEARS

DP HISTORY 1, 2
GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12
COURSE LENGTH: 2 YEARS

Additional Electives:

DP PSYCHOLOGY 1, 2
GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12
COURSE LENGTH: 2 YEARS

DP BUSINESS MANAGEMENT 1, 2
GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12
COURSE LENGTH: 2 YEARS



Individuals & Societies Courses

MYP (*GRADES 5-10*)

INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES 5

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 5

This course has a theme of migration. From early human settlements and ancient civilizations to the Great Migration in the United States to modern day migration and immigration. Through our study of ancient civilizations, we will learn the seven elements of a civilization. You will migrate through history to look at forced migration through the slave trade and the forced removal of Native American tribes from their land. We will look at the Great Migration and how it impacted the civil rights movement. Our year will culminate in how you can use your power and effect change. The design of this course is largely project-based learning with lots of opportunities for collaboration.

INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES 6:

THE RISE OF CIVILIZATION & KINGDOMS

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 6

In this course students will discover the ancient and early history of the world. Throughout the year, students will learn how to think like a historian and explore how early civilizations, kingdoms, and empires began. To help develop their knowledge, this course will include an introduction to argumentative writing and analysis of primary and secondary sources.

INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES 7:

DEVELOPMENT OF A GLOBAL WORLD (1500s-1900s)

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 7

In this course, students will explore the rise of the modern world. Beginning in Europe after the Middle Ages, and ending in the 20th Century, this course strives to understand the impact of empires, globalization, and modernity. Through research and writing techniques, analysis of sources, and critical thinking, students will gain a conceptual understanding of the world around them and how it came to be.



Individuals & Societies Courses

MYP (*GRADES 5-10*)

INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES 8:

A THEMATIC HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES (*WA State incl.*)

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 8

This course works to explore America's development through a thematic approach. Investigating concepts such as American Democracy, Diversity & Discrimination, Foreign Policy and Civil Liberties, and Indigenous Societies, students will trace the course of these developments and changes over the arc of U.S. history. With a strong focus on communication, research and critical thinking, students will foster the development of important skills to help them navigate modern society. Highlights of the course include Socratic seminars, historical figure role-play and, of course, a lot of document analysis! This course meets the Washington State graduation requirement for Washington State History.

INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES 9/10:

THE ADVENT OF CIVILIZATION: TRACING HUMAN ORIGINS

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10

In this course, students tour of the rise of civilization. Students investigate humanity's early beginnings and the subsequent rise of the first states, culminating with the rise of empires and collapse of societies. Students will develop a truly global perspective on human history. Highlights include exploring anthropological analysis, cave art and language, UNESCO sites, mind altering historical texts and essential questions, seminars, and more.

INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES 9/10:

GLOBAL HISTORY THROUGH GRAPHIC NOVELS: THE MODERN AGE CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10

In this course, students will explore a combination of local and global civics concepts. Through an investigation of our government and the analysis of several memoirs and investigative graphic novels taking place throughout the 19th-21st centuries, this course attempts to answer: What does it mean to be a citizen of the US and what does it mean to be a citizen of the world? As students' progress throughout the course, they will hone their skills as communicators, problem-solvers, and critical consumers by participating in complex image analysis, independent research, and student-led discussions.



Individuals & Societies Courses

DP (GRADES 11-12)

DP BUSINESS MANAGEMENT 1,2

CREDITS: 2.0

GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 2 YEARS

In this two-year course focused on inquiry-based teaching and learning, students are given the opportunity to explore business tools and theories using case studies, create their own questions, and formulate their own solutions to problems. The course concepts of change, creativity, ethics and sustainability will be covered in 5 units: Introduction to Business Management, Human Resource Management, Finance and Accounts, Marketing, and Operations Management. This class is heavily focused on analysis using case studies and real-world situations.

HL students will explore additional business models and formulas to further expand their understanding.

DP GLOBAL POLITICS 1,2

CREDITS: 2.0

GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 2 YEARS

In this two-year course, students explore fundamental political concepts such as power, equality, sustainability and peace in a range of contexts. It allows students to develop an understanding of the local, national, international and global dimensions of political activity and processes, as well as to explore political issues affecting their own lives. The course helps students to understand abstract political concepts by grounding them in real-world examples and case studies. It also invites comparison between such examples and case studies to ensure a wider and transnational perspective.

HL students will dive deep into political concept analysis, researching two political issues and communicating these in a dynamic, oral presentation.



Individuals & Societies Courses

DP (GRADES 11-12)

DP PSYCHOLOGY 1,2

CREDITS: 2.0

GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 2 YEARS

Psychology is the rigorous and systematic study of mental processes and behavior. In this two-year course, students are introduced to three different approaches to understanding behavior: biological, cognitive, and sociocultural. We will examine these approaches by choosing two areas of applied psychology (abnormal psychology, developmental psychology, health psychology, and psychology of human relationships) to focus on as a class. Coursework will include case studies, research papers, class discussion and will culminate in the IB Internal Assessment Paper.

At the HL, all information will be covered at a deeper level and content is expanded.

DP HISTORY 1,2

CREDITS: 2.0

GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 2 YEARS

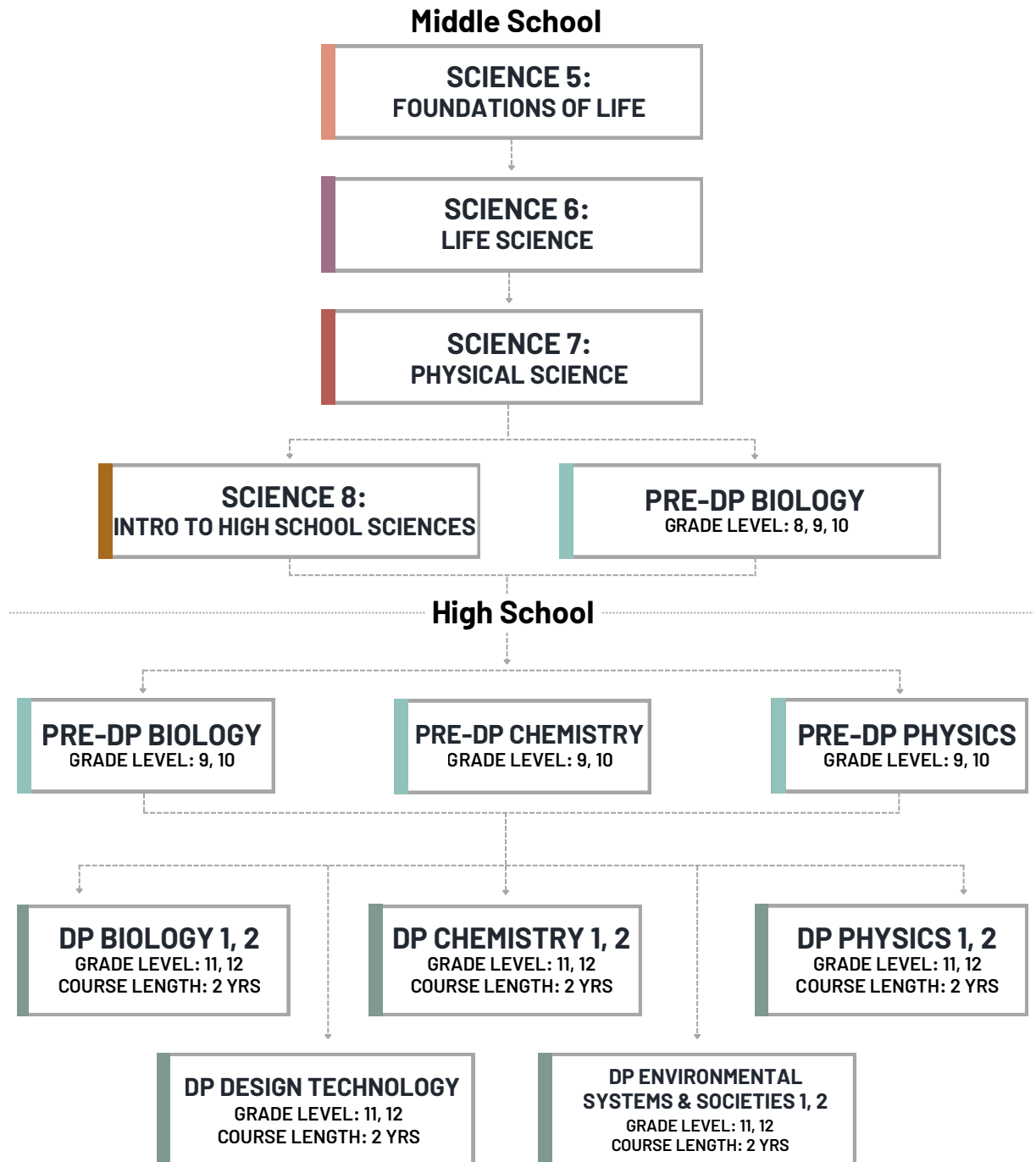
According to the IB, "The Diploma Programme (DP) history course is a world history course based on a comparative, multi-perspective approach to history and focused around key historical concepts such as change, causation and significance. It involves the study of a variety of types of history, including political, economic, social and cultural, encouraging students to think historically and to develop historical skills. In this way, the course involves a challenging and demanding critical exploration of the past.

The DP history course requires students to study and compare examples from different regions of the world, helping to foster international mindedness. Teachers have a great deal of freedom to choose relevant examples to explore with their students, helping to ensure that the course meets their students' needs and interests regardless of their location or context."

HL adds one of the following areas of study: History of Africa and the Middle East, History of the Americas, History of Asia and Oceania, or History of Europe.



Science Sequence



DP = SL or HL

Additional Elective Science Credits:

See Design section for course descriptions.

**PROGRAMMING:
INTRO TO COMPUTER SCIENCE A**
GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10

**PROGRAMMING:
INTRO TO COMPUTER SCIENCE B**
GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10

**PROGRAMMING:
AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A**
GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12



Science Courses

MYP (*GRADES 5-10*)

SCIENCE 5: FOUNDATIONS OF LIFE

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 5

In this course, students will explore a combination of life science, and physical and earth science. Life science begins by focusing on organisms at a cellular level, including an exploration of how organisms form communities and migrate to acquire resources and ending with how organisms interact with the larger ecosystem and impact other species. Additionally, students will learn about the properties and states of matter, molecular structures, and the function of the earth based on these properties.

SCIENCE 6: LIFE SCIENCE

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 6

In this course, students are introduced to basic concepts in physics and biology. In the course's physics unit, students will be introduced to the general concepts of objects in motion, forces on objects, types of energy and gravity. In the course's biology unit, students will finalize their understanding of genetics, cells, energy in life, reproduction, and natural selection.

SCIENCE 7: PHYSICAL SCIENCE

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 7

In this course, students are introduced to concepts in chemistry and will further develop their understanding of physics. Science 7's chemistry units will build student understanding of atomic structure, identification of elements and compounds, properties of matter, and identification of chemical reactions. In the second semester students will finalize understanding of physics concepts including waves and sound, heat and light, the earth and its systems, the atmosphere and its systems, and the universe and its systems.



Science Courses

MYP (*GRADES 5-10*)

SCIENCE 8:

INTRODUCTION TO HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 8

In this course, students learn concepts in biology, chemistry, physics, and independent research. In the biology unit students will learn about: Cell organelles and functions, mitosis, meiosis, DNA replication, transcription and translation. In the chemistry unit students will learn about: Properties of matter, atomic structure, the structure of the periodic table, balancing chemical equations, and types of reactions. In the physics unit students will learn about: Showing motion, measuring motion, work and power, energy transfer, electric fields, magnetism, electric circuits, and the solar system. The final unit will be an independent science project where students produce their own questions, research, and design an experiment, perform the experiment, then reflect and conclude on those results.

PRE-DP BIOLOGY

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10

This course is designed to prepare students for the intensive diploma program. It focuses on topics from plant biology, animal physiology, genetics and ecology. The interconnections between these topics are explored using themes such as energy flow, movement, form and function, patterns, evidence, interactions and consequences. Students are encouraged to be inquisitive and develop their analytical reasoning and logical interpretation skills. If taken in 8th grade, this course may be included on a high school transcript for high school credit.

PRE-DP CHEMISTRY

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10

This course is designed to prepare students for the intensive diploma program. It focuses on topics including: properties of matter, properties of mixtures, the format of the periodic table, properties of atoms, entropy, mole conversions, types of reactions, types of bonds, ions, electrochemistry, valence electrons, calculating and understanding concentration.



Science Courses

MYP (*GRADES 9-10*)

PRE-DP PHYSICS

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10

This course is designed to prepare students for the intensive diploma program. Topics include atomic structure, longitudinal and transverse waves, fields, conservation of energy, thermal physics, mechanics, circuits, and astronomy. The interconnections between these topics are explored using concepts like models, interaction, energy, transformation, movement, and evidence. Students will participate in the inquiry process and develop their experimental techniques and technology skills.



Science Courses

DP (*GRADES 11-12*)

DP BIOLOGY 1,2

CREDITS: 2.0

GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 2 YEARS

This two-year course centers around the study of life and living systems, covering topics such as cell biology, plant biology, genetics, evolution, ecology, animal physiology and human anatomy and physiology. These concepts are explored based on their interconnections and interdependence. Through the process of inquiry, concepts learned will be used to design, develop, and carry out appropriate labs. Students are required to undertake a mandatory Internal investigation and optional extended essay to demonstrate their understanding of the concepts to culminate the course.

HL students will explore additional topics including muscle and motility, chemical signaling, and gene expression. Students are required to undertake a mandatory Internal investigation and optional extended essay to demonstrate their understanding of the concepts to culminate the course.

DP CHEMISTRY 1,2

CREDITS: 2.0

GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 2 YEARS

This two-year course centers the identification of patterns in order to explain matter at a microscopic level, covering concepts like atoms, periodicity, bonding, kinetics, equilibrium, thermodynamics, redox reactions, acid base equilibrium and organic chemistry. Through the process of inquiry, students will work to integrate topics and to design, develop and carry out appropriate labs. Students are required to undertake a mandatory internal investigation to demonstrate their understanding of the concepts to culminate the course.

HL students should expect to cover some topics in greater depth and to study additional topics as an extension of the material. Students will also have an increased focus on experimental design, chemical formation, and environmental implications.



Science Courses

DP (GRADES 11-12)

DP PHYSICS 1,2

CREDITS: 2.0

GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 2 YEARS

This two-year course is a concept-based approach to physics that allows connections to be made between topics. Topics span five themes: space, time, and motion; the particulate nature of matter; wave behaviour; fields; and nuclear and quantum physics. Integral to the student experience of the DP physics course is the learning that takes place through scientific inquiry both in the classroom and the laboratory. The experimental program includes an individual scientific investigation and a collaborative sciences project.

HL includes additional topics of study in all five themes, increasing the prescribed content from 110 to 180 hours.

ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS & SOCIETIES 1,2

CREDITS: 2.0

GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 2 YEARS

This two-year interdisciplinary course encompasses both the sciences and individuals and societies. As such, ESS combines a mixture of methodologies, techniques and knowledge associated with both disciplines. Students engage with the challenges of 21st century environmental issues relating to social, cultural, economic, political, and ethical contexts. The interdisciplinary nature of the course means students produce a synthesis of understanding from the various topics studied and develop a diverse set of skills, knowledge and understandings. It also emphasizes the ability to perform research and investigations and to participate in philosophical, ethical, and pragmatic discussions of the issues involved from the local through to the global level.

HL has three HL-only lenses; environmental law, environmental and ecological economics, and environmental ethics. The conceptually more demanding HL lenses allow for far more sophisticated processing and balanced viewpoints.

Further credits in the area of Science can be found in the Design section of this course catalog.



Mathematics Pathway

At Willows Prep, we designed our math pathway with a focus on integrated math instruction. An integrated math sequence cultivates the holistic development of mathematics concepts by teaching algebraic, geometric, and statistical concepts in combination with each other, rather than in individual silos which exist in a traditional pathway. Students who learn math in this manner generally have improved mathematical conceptual understanding, stronger problem-solving skills, reduced math anxiety, and are flexible and adaptable in their thinking. The 11th and 12th grade IB Diploma Programme math courses are also designed and assessed in an integrated fashion. Students who complete middle and high school math courses at Willows Prep receive a rigorous, thorough mathematics sequence, and can earn the equivalent in credits to students who attend high schools which focus on AP course sequences.

Please use the following chart to see the Willows Prep math sequence and how it aligns to a traditional math sequence.

Willows Prep Grade Level	Willows Prep Course Title	Traditional Math Course Equivalent
5th	MATHEMATICS 5: CONCEPTUAL MATHEMATICS I	6 th Grade CCSS Math
6th	MATHEMATICS 6: CONCEPTUAL MATHEMATICS II	7 th Grade CCSS Math
7th	MATHEMATICS 7: CONCEPTUAL MATHEMATICS III	8 th Grade CCSS Math
8th	INTEGRATED HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS I*	Algebra 1 (1.0 credits) and Geometry (0.5 credits)
9th	INTEGRATED HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS II	Geometry (0.5 credits) and Algebra 2 (1.0 credits)
10th	AP STATISTICS -OR- AP PRECALCULUS	AP Precalculus (1.0 credits) -OR- AP Statistics (1.0 credits)
11th	DP MATHEMATICS: ANALYSIS AND APPROACHES 1 -OR- APPLICATIONS AND INTERPRETATION 1	DP Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches (1,2) HL can earn as much college credit as AP Calculus BC.**
12th	DP MATHEMATICS: ANALYSIS AND APPROACHES 2 -OR- APPLICATIONS AND INTERPRETATION 2	DP Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation (1,2) HL can earn as much college credit as AP Calculus AB.**

* Can be used for HS credit and placed on HS transcript.

** College credit is dependent on the score and the university.



Mathematics Sequence

Middle School

**MATHEMATICS 5:
CONCEPTUAL MATHEMATICS I**



**MATHEMATICS 6:
CONCEPTUAL MATHEMATICS II**



**MATHEMATICS 7:
CONCEPTUAL MATHEMATICS III**



**INTEGRATED HIGH SCHOOL
MATHEMATICS I***

High School



**INTEGRATED HIGH SCHOOL
MATHEMATICS II**



AP STATISTICS



AP PRECALCULUS



**DP MATHEMATICS:
ANALYSIS AND APPROACHES**
GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12
COURSE LENGTH: 2 YRS



**DP MATHEMATICS:
APPLICATIONS AND INTERPRETATION**
GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12
COURSE LENGTH: 2 YRS

DP = SL or HL

*Integrated High School Mathematics I can be used for HS credit and placed on HS transcript.



Mathematics Courses

MYP (*GRADES 5-10*)

MATHEMATICS 5:

CONCEPTUAL MATHEMATICS 1

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 5

This course is a new type of math course where students will perform investigations to discover and formulate mathematical rules, algorithms, and procedures. Highlights of this course include identities and relationships, orientation in space and time, personal and cultural expression, scientific and technical innovation, globalization and sustainability, and fairness and development. Seven units of content for this course include Numbers and Number Systems, Percentages, Algebraic Expressions and Equations, Geometric Construction, Fractions, Data Management, Perimeter, Area and Volume.

MATHEMATICS 6:

CONCEPTUAL MATHEMATICS 2

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 6

This course is a continuation of the foundations presented in the fifth grade accelerated math curriculum. Students will study ratios and rates and how to use them in proportional relationships, investigate and demonstrate theories of probability, understand and use operations involving integers, write and evaluate algebraic expressions, solve and graph two step equations and inequalities, calculate area and volume of 2D and 3D geometric shapes, and record and analyze univariate data with a variety of displays.

MATHEMATICS 7:

CONCEPTUAL MATHEMATICS 3

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 7

This course is a continuation of the foundations presented in the sixth grade accelerated math curriculum with an emphasis on strengthening number sense, building investigation skills, and making connections globally. The year will begin with an introduction to estimations and approximations, linear equations and systems of linear equations, the analysis of bivariate data, geometric transformations, and trigonometry – all with an emphasis on real world applications.



Mathematics Courses

MYP (GRADES 5-10)

INTEGRATED HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS I

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 8

This course combines a traditional algebra foundations course with a strong focus on application – problem-solving skills, pattern investigation strategies, and real-life modelling. Highlights of the course include rational and irrational numbers; linear and quadratic expressions; systems of equations and inequalities; quadratic equations; function transformations; geometric transformations; and circle theorems.

INTEGRATED HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS II

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 9

This course combines traditional high school geometry and statistics with a strong focus on application – pattern investigation strategies, communication and real-life problem solving. Highlights of the course include set theory, univariate statistics, probability, sequences, rational algebraic functions, bivariate data, logarithms, and graph theory.



Mathematics Courses

MYP (*GRADES 5-10*)

AP STATISTICS

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 10

In accordance with the College Board's AP Statistics outline, this course "... introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. There are four themes evident in the content, skills, and assessment in the AP Statistics course: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, probability and simulation, and statistical inference. Students use technology, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they build conceptual understanding. The AP Statistics course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory, non-calculus-based college course in statistics." More information can be found at: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-statistics-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

College credit is dependent on the AP exam score, which is taken at the end of the course, and is awarded by the college or university of attendance, not by Willows Prep.



Mathematics Courses

MYP (*GRADES 5-10*)

AP PRECALCULUS

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 10

College Board's AP Precalculus course, "...centers on functions modeling dynamic phenomena..." Throughout this course, students develop and hone symbolic manipulation skills, including solving equations and manipulating expressions, for the many function types throughout the course. Students also learn functions and their compositions, inverses. Transformations are understood through graphical, numerical, analytical, and verbal representations, which reveal different attributes of the functions and are useful for solving problems in mathematical and applied contexts. In turn, the skills learned in this course are widely applicable to situations that involve quantitative reasoning. AP Precalculus is designed to be the equivalent of a first semester college precalculus course. It provides students with an understanding of the concepts of college algebra, trigonometry, and additional topics that prepare students for further college level mathematics courses. This course explores a variety of function types and their applications—polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, polar, parametric, vector-valued, implicitly defined, and linear transformation functions using matrices. Throughout the course, the mathematical practices of procedural and symbolic fluency, multiple representations, and communication and reasoning are developed. More information can be found at: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-precalculus-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

College credit is dependent on the AP exam score, which is taken at the end of the course, and is awarded by the college or university of attendance, not by Willows Prep.



Mathematics Courses

DP (GRADES 11-12)

DP MATHEMATICS: ANALYSIS AND APPROACHES 1, 2

CREDITS: 2.0

GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 2 YEARS

This advanced two-year course integrates five areas of math: number and algebra; functions; geometry and trigonometry; statistics and probability; and calculus. Investigational, problem-solving, and modelling skills are developed and then exemplified in each student's exploration of an area of mathematics. Highlights of the course include sequences and series; proofs; complex numbers; differentiation; statistical analysis; trigonometric identities; integration; differential equations; vectors; and probability distributions.

SL highlights of the course include sequences and series; quadratic and rational functions; differentiation; correlation and least squares regression; trigonometry; logarithms; integration; and conditional probability.

HL covers more breadth and depth of material than SL, as well as an increased focus on problem-solving, derivation, and proof capabilities.

DP MATHEMATICS: APPLICATIONS AND INTERPRETATION 1, 2

CREDITS: 2.0

GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 2 YEARS

This advanced two-year course integrates five areas of math: number and algebra; functions; geometry and trigonometry; statistics and probability; and calculus. There is a strong focus on applications of mathematics and how mathematics is used to describe, understand, and develop the world around us. Highlights include two and three-dimensional vectors; Voronoi diagrams; descriptive statistics; modelling real world scenarios using linear, power, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions; hypothesis testing; probability distributions; limits, derivatives, integration, and differential equations.

SL highlights two and three-dimensional geometry; descriptive statistics; modeling real world scenarios using linear, power, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions; hypothesis testing; probability distributions; differential calculus and integration.

HL covers more breadth and depth of material than SL, as well as an increased focus on problem-solving capabilities.



Design Sequences

MYP (GRADES 5-10)

INTRO TO DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

GRADE LEVEL: 5, 6
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

VIDEO CREATION

FUNDAMENTALS OF VIDEO EDITING

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

ANIMATIONS STRATEGIES

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

MARKETING & COMMERCIALS

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Video Creation courses can also count as an Arts elective.

PROGRAMMING

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE A

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE B

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Programming courses can also count as a Science elective.

ROBOTICS

FUNDAMENTALS OF ROBOTICS

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

ARDUINOS

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

VEX ROBOTICS:
NAVIGATION & CLIMBING

VEX ROBOTICS:
RETRIEVAL & STACKING

HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN

FUNDAMENTALS OF HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

SMART CITIES

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Human-Centered Design courses can also count as an Arts elective.

TECHNICAL THEATER

FUNDAMENTALS OF TECHNICAL THEATER

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

COSTUMING & STAGE MAKE-UP

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

LIGHTING & SOUND DESIGN

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

SET & PROP DESIGN

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10
COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Technical Theater courses can also count as an Arts elective.



Design Courses

MYP (GRADES 5-10)

INTRO TO DESIGN TECHNOLOGY:

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 5, 6

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

In this course, students are introduced to the design process and creative problem solving. Students will engage with a variety of skills, applications, and media, using both physical materials and technology to develop and create solutions. Examples of student projects include: game design, 3D modeling, Micro: Bits and the creation of pinewood derby cars.

VIDEO CREATION:

FUNDAMENTALS OF VIDEO EDITING

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Fundamentals of Video Editing is the first in a series of four design technology courses that focus on digital media as a tool for exploring the design cycle and the holistic design process. Creation and editing of digital media will be used as a way to apply practical and creative thinking skills, explore the role of design in historical and contemporary contexts, and consider the ethical implications of design decisions. Utilizing Adobe Premier as well as a variety of other digital media tools, students will develop the foundational skills required to successfully complete any of the other three courses in the Video Editing Design Technology pathway. **This course can also count as an Arts elective.**

VIDEO CREATION:

ANIMATION STRATEGIES

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Animation is the one of a series of four design technology courses that focus on digital media as a tool for exploring the design cycle and the holistic design process. Building on skills developed in Fundamentals of Video Editing, students will focus on animation skills to create digital media. Topics include character development, principles of animation, and the history of animation. **This course can also count as an Arts elective.**

Pre-requisite: Fundamentals of Video Editing



Design Courses

MYP (GRADES 7-10)

VIDEO CREATION: DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Documentary Filmmaking is the one of a series of four design technology courses that focus on digital media as a tool for exploring the design cycle and the holistic design process. Building on skills developed in Fundamentals of Video Editing, students will focus on the skills required for documentary film creation. Students will utilize film creation to identify a non-fictional story, and to create a documentary film that tells the story in a compelling way. Students will learn about the structure, technical components, importance of interviews, and ethical considerations of a successful documentary. **This course can also count as an Arts elective.**

Pre-requisite: Fundamentals of Video Editing

VIDEO CREATION: MARKETING & COMMERCIALS

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Marketing and Commercials is one of a series of four design technology courses that focus on digital media as a tool for exploring the design cycle and the holistic design process. Building on skills developed in Fundamentals of Video Editing, students will focus on the skills required to successfully market a product using digital media. Students will learn about the various methods of digital marketing, and the role of video in marketing. Students will create a variety of marketing materials for products and services. **This course can also count as an Arts elective.**

Pre-requisite: Fundamentals of Video Editing



Design Courses

MYP (GRADES 7-10)

PROGRAMMING:

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE A

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Introduction to Computer Science with Microsoft MakeCode Arcade A is a one-semester course designed to introduce students to programming using visual drag-and-drop Blocks. The course covers topics such as sprites, event handlers and variables, loops and arrays, functions, tile maps and platform games, and a capstone project. Approximately 75% of the course is designed for students to build projects and practice learned skills. **This course can also count as a Science elective.**

PROGRAMMING:

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE B

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Introduction to Computer Science with Microsoft MakeCode Arcade B is a one-semester course designed to introduce students to programming using Python. The course covers topics such as Static Typed Python, variables, loops, arrays, animations, functions, object-oriented programming, tile maps and platformers, advanced graphics, and a capstone project. Approximately 75% of the course is designed for students to build projects and practice learned skills. **This course can also count as a Science elective.**

PROGRAMMING:

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course introduces students to computational thinking practices through programming in Java. These skills are developed with units on primitive types, using objects, Boolean expressions and if statements, iteration, writing classes, arrays, ArrayList, 2D arrays, inheritance, and recursion. Spiraled through these units are the big ideas of modularity, variables, control, and impact of computing. This course is co-taught with industry professionals from the TEALS program. **This course can also count as a Science elective.**



Design Courses

MYP (GRADES 7-10)

ROBOTICS: FUNDAMENTALS OF ROBOTICS

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Fundamentals of Robotics is the first in a series of four design technology courses that focus on robotics as a tool for exploring the design cycle and the holistic design process. Students will learn the basic skills required for programming robots by exploring Micro:Bits, Arduinos, and more. Students will learn the skills for setting up an engineering notebook, the physics concepts involved in motion and explore the history of robotics. Students will develop the foundational skills required to successfully complete any of the other three courses in the Robotics Design Technology pathway.

ROBOTICS: ARDUINOS

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Arduinos is the one of a series of four design technology courses that focus on robotics as a tool for exploring the design cycle and the holistic design process. Building on skills developed in Fundamentals of Robotics, students will focus on the skills required for behaviors and movement in Arduinos. Students will create Arduino robots that can do a variety of tasks, including drawing, moving, and climbing. Students will hone the skills to make their robots move autonomously, utilizing sensors, as well as in remote-controlled situations. This course will prepare students to take either of the next two courses in the Robotics sequence: Vex Robotics: Navigation and Climbing, or Vex Robotics: Retrieval and Stacking.

Pre-requisite: Fundamentals of Robotics



Design Courses

MYP (GRADES 7-10)

ROBOTICS:

VEX ROBOTICS: NAVIGATION & CLIMBING

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Vex Robotics: Navigation and Climbing is the one of a series of four design technology courses that focus on robotics as a tool for exploring the design cycle and the holistic design process. Building on skills developed in Fundamentals of Robotics and Arduinos, students will focus on the skills required to build and code Vex Robots, with a focus on navigation and climbing behaviors. Students will develop coding skills in C++ and Python, as well as the mechanical engineering skills necessary to build Vex robots capable of movement and climbing. Competition in Vex Robotics events is not a requirement of this course.

Pre-requisite: Arduinos

ROBOTICS:

VEX ROBOTICS: RETRIEVAL & STACKING

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Vex Robotics: Retrieval and Stacking is the one of a series of four design technology courses that focus on robotics as a tool for exploring the design cycle and the holistic design process. Building on skills developed in Fundamentals of Robotics and Arduinos, students will focus on the skills required to build and code Vex Robots, with a focus on retrieval and stacking behaviors. Students will develop coding skills in C++ and Python, as well as the mechanical engineering skills necessary to build Vex robots capable of retrieving and stacking objects. Competition in Vex Robotics events is not a requirement of this course.

Pre-requisite: Arduinos

HUMAN-CENTERED:

FUNDAMENTALS OF HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Fundamentals of Human-Centered Design is the first in a series of four design technology courses that focus on human-centered design as a tool for exploring the design cycle and the holistic design process. This course will develop foundational skills related to architecture, interior design, landscape design, and civil engineering. Upon completion of this class, students will develop the foundational skills required to successfully complete any of the other three courses in the Human-Centered Design Technology pathway. **This course can also count as an Arts elective.**



Design Courses

MYP (GRADES 7-10)

HUMAN-CENTERED: ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Architecture and Interior Design is the one of a series of four design technology courses that focus on human-centered design opportunities as a tool for exploring the design cycle and the holistic design process. Building from skills developed in Fundamentals of Human-Centered Design, students will focus on and explore the history of architecture and interior design principles as well as current considerations when creating spaces for modern humans. Students will design and develop models of living and working spaces, built to specific requirements, with a focus on ethical design considerations. **This course can also count as an Arts elective.**

Pre-requisite: Fundamentals of Human-Centered Design

HUMAN-CENTERED: LANDSCAPE DESIGN

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Landscape Design is the one of a series of four design technology courses that focus on human-centered design opportunities as a tool for exploring the design cycle and the holistic design process. Building from skills developed in Fundamentals of Human-Centered Design, students will focus on landscape and agricultural design principles. Students will explore the history of landscape design, as well as current considerations when creating outdoor spaces for living and food production. Students will design and develop models of outdoor spaces, with a focus on ethical design considerations. **This course can also count as an Arts elective.**

Pre-requisite: Fundamentals of Human-Centered Design



Design Courses

MYP (GRADES 7-10)

HUMAN-CENTERED: SMART CITIES

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Smart Cities is the one of a series of four design technology courses that focus on human-centered design opportunities as a tool for exploring the design cycle and the holistic design process. Building from skills developed in Fundamentals of Human-Centered Design, students will focus on city planning design principles. Students will explore the history of city planning, as well as current considerations when designing a smart city. Students will design and develop models of smart cities, with a focus on ethical design considerations. **This course can also count as an Arts elective.**

Pre-requisite: Fundamentals of Human-Centered Design

TECHNICAL THEATER: FUNDAMENTALS OF TECHNICAL THEATER

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Fundamentals of Technical Theatre is the first in a series of four design technology courses that utilize technical theater skills as a tool for exploring the design cycle and the holistic design process. This course will develop foundational skills related to costume and make-up design, lighting and sound design, and set and prop design. Upon completion of this class, students will develop the foundational skills required to successfully complete any of the other three courses in the Technical Theatre Design Technology pathway. **This course can also count as an Arts elective.**

TECHNICAL THEATER: COSTUMING & STAGE MAKE-UP

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Costume and Stage Make-up is the one of a series of four design technology courses that utilize technical theater skills as a tool for exploring the design cycle and the holistic design process. Building from skills developed in Fundamentals of Technical Theatre, students will focus on costume and stage make-up design principles. Students will explore the history of costume creation and stage make-up, as well as plan and develop costumes and stage make-up to support WPS theatre productions. **This course can also count as an Arts elective.**

Pre-requisite: Fundamentals of Technical Theatre



Design Courses

MYP (GRADES 7-10)

TECHNICAL THEATER: LIGHTING & SOUND DESIGN

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Lighting and Sound Design is the one of a series of four design technology courses that utilize technical theater skills as a tool for exploring the design cycle and the holistic design process. Building from skills developed in Fundamentals of Technical Theatre, students will explore the history of lighting and sound design, as well as plan and develop lighting and sound design to support WPS theatre productions. **This course can also count as an Arts elective.**

Pre-requisite: Fundamentals of Technical Theatre

TECHNICAL THEATER: SET & PROP DESIGN

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Set and Prop Design is the one of a series of four design technology courses that utilize technical theater skills as a tool for exploring the design cycle and the holistic design process. Building from skills developed in Fundamentals of Technical Theatre, students will explore the history of set and prop design, as well as plan and develop set pieces and props to support WPS theatre productions.

This course can also count as an Arts elective.

Pre-requisite: Fundamentals of Technical Theatre



Design Courses

DP (*GRADES 11-12*)

DP DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

CREDITS: 2.0

GRADE LEVEL: 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 2 YEARS

This two-year course is designed to cover a range of topics, and provide students multiple opportunities to apply design strategies, skills, and theories to real-world problems. Students will work on projects covering the making and interpreting of blueprints, manufacturing techniques, and “green” design choices. In DP Design Technology students will use critical thinking skills to analyze problems, develop solutions, and test and evaluate the outcomes.

HL students will explore innovation, markets, and commercial production in addition to topics covered at the standard level.



Visual & Performing Arts Courses

(GRADES 5-12)

INTRODUCTION TO PERFORMING ARTS:

MUSIC

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 5, 6

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed to introduce students to playing an instrument in a band setting (Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Trumpet, Snare Drum/Mallets), and is designed for minimal musical experience. Students will be taught the introductory musicianship skills of a new wind or percussion instrument, learn, and identify basic music theory, and utilize those skills in playing beginning grade repertoire.

PERFORMING ARTS:

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND 1

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed to support students in building intermediate skills in playing their wind instrument in a band setting. Students will be taught progressing musicianship skills of their wind instrument, learn, and identify intermediate music theory, and utilize those skills in playing intermediate grade repertoire.

PERFORMING ARTS:

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND 2

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed to support students in learning and integrating advanced skills in playing their wind instrument in a band setting. Students will be taught advanced musicianship skills of their wind instrument, learn, and identify advanced music theory, and utilize those skills in playing advanced repertoire.



Visual & Performing Arts Courses

(GRADES 5-12)

PERFORMING ARTS:

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND 3

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed to support students in learning and integrating advanced skills in playing their wind instrument in a band setting. Students will be taught advanced musicianship skills of their wind instrument, learn, and identify advanced music theory, and utilize those skills in playing advanced repertoire.

PERFORMING ARTS:

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND 4

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed to support students in learning and integrating advanced skills in playing their wind instrument in a band setting. Students will be taught advanced musicianship skills of their wind instrument, learn, and identify advanced music theory, and utilize those skills in playing advanced repertoire.

PERFORMING ARTS:

HIGH SCHOOL BAND

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed to refine and advance student musicianship on their chosen instrument. Students will learn the intricacies of composition through the arrangement of their own music. Students will utilize all previous levels of music theory and musicianship in order to successfully perform at the level required for their arrangements.



Visual & Performing Arts Courses

(GRADES 5-12)

INTRODUCTION TO PERFORMING ARTS:

THEATRE

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 5, 6

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course gives students a broad overview of what Theatre Arts has to offer. Integrating elements of acting, technical theatre, theatrical design, language use and writing, research, and experiencing the art form, students will work towards the National Core Art Standards for 6th grade Theatre and MYP Year 1 Standards. NCAS includes skills in the categories of Creating, Performing, Responding & Connecting. MYP includes skills in the categories of Investigating, Developing, Creating or Performing, and Evaluating.

PERFORMING ARTS:

ACTING 1

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course will focus on the Acting and Performance elements of Theatre Arts. Focusing on vocal and physical manipulation, body awareness, script analysis, performance techniques, rehearsal techniques, and an introduction into theatre history, students will work towards the National Core Arts Standards for 7th Grade Theatre and MYP Year 2 Standards. NCAS includes skills in the categories of Creating, Performing, Responding & Connecting. MYP includes skills in the categories of Investigating, Developing, Creating or Performing, and Evaluating.

PERFORMING ARTS:

ACTING 2

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course will continue the work from Acting 1 and focus on the Acting and Performance elements of Theatre Arts. Focusing on vocal and physical manipulation and awareness, script analysis, reflection & evaluation of performances, performance techniques, rehearsal techniques, and theatre history, students will work towards the National Core Arts Standards for 7th Grade Theatre and MYP Year 2 Standards. NCAS includes skills in the categories of Creating, Performing, Responding & Connecting. MYP includes skills in the categories of Investigating, Developing, Creating or Performing, and Evaluating.



Visual & Performing Arts Courses

(GRADES 5-12)

PERFORMING ARTS:

ACTING 3

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course will continue the work from Acting 2 and focus on the Acting and Performance elements of Theatre Arts. Focusing on devised theatre, performance techniques, theatre history, theatrical reflection, and competitive performance, students will work towards the National Core Arts Standards for 8th Grade Theatre and MYP Year 2 & 3 Standards. NCAS includes skills in the categories of Creating, Performing, Responding & Connecting. MYP includes skills in the categories of Investigating, Developing, Creating or Performing, and Evaluating.

PERFORMING ARTS:

ACTING 4

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course will continue the work from Acting 3 and focus on the Acting and Performance elements of Theatre Arts. Focusing on practical applications of script analysis, performance techniques, rehearsal techniques, theatre history, and theatrical reflection, students will work towards the National Core Arts Standards for 8-9th Grade Theatre and MYP Year 3 Standards. NCAS includes skills in the categories of Creating, Performing, Responding & Connecting. MYP includes skills in the categories of Investigating, Developing, Creating or Performing, and Evaluating.

PERFORMING ARTS:

ACTING 5

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed for students with Performing Arts Experience. Class will continue work from Acting 4 and cater to the needs of the students in the class. Repeatable for credit, examples of possible classwork include: Competition Preparation, Class Production, Independent projects, Laban Movement, Musical Theatre, Historical Theatre (Greek, Roman, Shakespeare, Kabuki, etc). Other topics to be added as needed. Students in this class will work towards NCAS, MYP, & DP skills at or above grade level.

Additional Performing Arts credits are found in the Design section of this handbook.



Visual & Performing Arts Courses

(GRADES 5-12)

INTRODUCTION TO VISUAL ARTS:

ART STUDIO

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 5, 6

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Introduction to Studio Art will explore the fundamentals of art and design and will enable students to create uniquely composed and expressive two-dimensional art. Through a comprehensive curriculum, students will gain proficiency in understanding, employing, and unifying the elements of art and principles of design. This course will introduce a wide range of art materials and techniques intended to facilitate and develop students' abilities in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. The curriculum will also incorporate the art critique process as a means of fostering a deep understanding of artistic evaluation, critical thinking, and creative growth. Within the realm of two-dimensional art, students will explore works from various cultures and renowned artists with the intention of broadening their cultural perspectives and introducing them to art history. Through hands-on activities, material experimentation, class discussions, formative practices, summative projects and critiques, students will be actively engaged with the artistic process.

VISUAL ARTS:

DRAWING 1

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Students will embark on a creative journey into the world of visual storytelling with our Illustration class, as this course is a captivating and rigorous exploration of visual art, imagination, and communication. Through a dynamic blend of two-dimensional art techniques, students will learn to create unique illustrations that connect with narratives, concepts, and communication. Students will specifically explore concept design, character design, and editorial illustration as a means of developing their artistic skills, visual literacy, and visual communication. Through a number of comprehensive formative practices and summative projects, students will explore both the creative and pragmatic approaches to illustration as an applied art. Students will also be regularly engaged in discussions, they will explore diverse artistic styles, and they will embrace the power of imagery to convey messages in distinctive and impactful ways. Whether students are beginners or looking to enhance their existing skills, this course offers a supportive environment to express your creativity and develop a solid foundation in illustration.



Visual & Performing Arts Courses

(GRADES 5-12)

VISUAL ARTS:

DRAWING 2

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course offers an immersive exploration into the world of artistic creation. Students will embark on a journey of experimentation with various art media and techniques and will uncover the potential of two-dimensional drawings. Through a diverse range of media, students will delve into the interplay of the structural elements of art and organizational principles of design as a means of developing unique, expressive, and well-composed drawings. Through observation, research, and creative thinking, students will synthesize their ideas into cohesive and innovative drawings while also fine-tuning their creative problem-solving skills. Students will have the opportunity to explore both traditional and contemporary themes in art such as still life, portraiture, and landscape drawing. Likewise, students will explore works of art from diverse cultures and esteemed artists across art history aims to enrich and expand their creative perspective. Engaging in both individual and group critique processes, students will refine their critical thinking skills while contributing to a collaborative artistic environment.

VISUAL ARTS:

PAINTING 1

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course immerses students into the world of artistic expression through painting. Students engage in a dynamic exploration of various wet media and techniques via an array of two-dimensional painting projects. The course initially delves into the captivating world of color theory and realistic depiction, but eventually, students will explore and employ more stylistic decision making. By synthesizing observation, research, and self-expression, students will create distinctive art compositions that enhance their understanding of painting while also reflecting their individuality. In the process, they will cultivate observational painting skills, enhance creative thinking, and nurture innovative problem-solving abilities. A comprehensive exploration of artworks from diverse cultures and notable artists across art history will further enrich students' understanding of visual art and painting as an artistic genre. Lastly, as a means of further encouraging creative development, students will be regularly engaged in the artistic critique process as an integral part of nurturing their growth within a collaborative artistic community.



Visual & Performing Arts Courses

(GRADES 5-12)

VISUAL ARTS: **PAINTING 2**

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course immerses students into the world of artistic expression through painting. Students engage in a dynamic exploration of various wet media and techniques via an array of two-dimensional painting projects. The course initially delves into the captivating world of color theory and realistic depiction, but eventually, students will explore and employ more stylistic decision making. By synthesizing observation, research, and self-expression, students will create distinctive art compositions that enhance their understanding of painting while also reflecting their individuality. In the process, they will cultivate observational painting skills, enhance creative thinking, and nurture innovative problem-solving abilities. A comprehensive exploration of artworks from diverse cultures and notable artists across art history will further enrich students' understanding of visual art and painting as an artistic genre. Lastly, as a means of further encouraging creative development, students will be regularly engaged in the artistic critique process as an integral part of nurturing their growth within a collaborative artistic community.

VISUAL ARTS: **CERAMICS 1**

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

In this introductory course, students will discover the art and science of ceramics by learning the fundamentals of clay, glaze, and firing techniques. Through hands-on projects and demonstrations, students will learn essential skills such as hand-building, wheel-throwing, and surface decoration. Emphasis will be placed on both functional and sculptural approaches, encouraging creativity and individual expression. The course will also cover basic studio practices, safety procedures, and an overview of ceramic history and contemporary practices. No prior experience is necessary, making this class perfect for beginners eager to dive into the world of ceramics.



Visual & Performing Arts Courses

(GRADES 5-12)

VISUAL ARTS:

COLLAGE 1

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

In this introductory collage class, students will explore the dynamic art of combining various materials to create unique visual compositions. Through hands-on projects, participants will learn fundamental techniques such as cutting, layering, and adhering diverse elements (incl. paper, fabric, and found objects). The course will delve into the principles of design, color theory, and composition, encouraging personal expression and experimentation. Additionally, students will study the historical and contemporary contexts of collage, gaining inspiration from influential artists in the field. This class welcomes beginners and requires no prior experience, making it an ideal starting point for those interested in mixed-media art.

VISUAL ARTS:

ANATOMY & FIGURE DRAWING 1

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course offers a captivating exploration of the human form as a conduit for artistic expression. Rooted in anatomical understanding, students elevate their comprehension of the figure by delving into the human skeletal and muscular systems. With drawing as a primary focus, students immerse themselves in various dry media to create anatomical studies that meld scientific knowledge with artistic mastery. Embracing both formative and summative projects, students develop skills in visual research, observation, creative problem-solving, and the creation of finely developed compositions. Guided by the critique process, students thoughtfully assess their own work and that of their peers, fostering a discerning eye and thoughtful reflection. This comprehensive course merges hands-on activities, technical drawing, scientific inquiry, and experimentation with a wide spectrum of two-dimensional art media.



Visual & Performing Arts Courses

(GRADES 5-12)

VISUAL ARTS:

ANATOMY & FIGURE DRAWING 2

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course allows students to further explore the human form as a conduit for artistic expression. Rooted in anatomical understanding, students expand their comprehension of the figure by delving into the human skeletal and muscular systems. With drawing as a primary focus, students immerse themselves in various dry media to create anatomical studies that meld scientific knowledge with artistic mastery. Embracing both formative and summative projects, students develop skills in visual research, observation, creative problem-solving, and the creation of finely developed compositions. Guided by the critique process, students thoughtfully assess their own work and that of their peers, fostering a discerning eye and thoughtful reflection. This comprehensive course is designed as an extension of Anatomy & Figure Drawing 1, where students refine and further explore their skills and creativity.

VISUAL ARTS:

INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This photography course introduces students to the art and practice of capturing images, beginning with the foundations of photography and the history of cameras. Students will develop composition skills such as framing, rule of thirds, depth, and perspective. Through projects that combine portraits, storytelling, and creative exploration, ranging from a collaborative photo quilt to a Humans of New York style interview. Students will use photography to connect images with meaning. The course culminates in research on professional photographers, the creation of a personal portfolio, and the curation of a final gallery show, giving students both the skills and confidence to share their vision with an audience.

Additional Visual Arts credits are found in the Design section of this handbook.



Physical & Health Ed. Courses

MYP (GRADES 5-8)

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION 5

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 5

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

In this course, students will apply fundamental skills in modified games, rhythmic activities, and recreational activities. Goals of this course include improvement of fitness, development of fundamental sports skills, and the growth of knowledge, skills, and attitudes contributing to a balanced and healthy lifestyle. Highlights of the course include fitness assessment and goal setting, instruction in a wide range of skills and movement patterns, fitness & health education (incl. nutrition, social and emotional health, and more), and social skill development (incl. cooperation, teamwork, and confidence building).

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION 6

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 6

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

In this course, students will combine fundamental skills into more complex movement forms in modified games, rhythmic activities, and recreational activities. Goals of this course include improvement of fitness, development of fundamental sports skills, and the growth of knowledge, skills, and attitudes contributing to a balanced and healthy lifestyle. Highlights of the course include fitness assessment and goal setting, instruction in a wide range of skills and movement patterns, fitness & health education (incl. nutrition, social and emotional health, and more), and social skill development (incl. cooperation, teamwork, and confidence building).



Physical & Health Ed. Courses

MYP (GRADES 5-8)

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION 7/8:

TEAM SPORTS

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7,8

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed to foster physical fitness, teamwork, and strategic thinking through a variety of popular sports. Students will participate in games such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, and more, gaining fundamental skills and techniques specific to each sport. Emphasis will be placed on developing cooperation, communication, and sportsmanship, as well as understanding the rules and dynamics of team play. Through drills, scrimmages, and friendly competitions, participants will enhance their coordination, agility, and overall fitness.

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION 7/8:

NET & RACKET SPORTS

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7,8

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed to develop students' fitness by actively engaging students in activities including volleyball, badminton, and tennis. Through a mix of drills, practice sessions, and friendly matches, participants will develop essential skills such as serving, volleying, and proper racket handling. Emphasis will be placed on mastering techniques, improving hand-eye coordination, and understanding the rules and strategies unique to each sport. The course also highlights the importance of fitness, agility, and sportsmanship.

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION 7/8:

FUNDAMENTALS OF MOVEMENT - WALKING & YOGA

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7,8

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Designed to promote physical well-being, mental clarity, and overall health, this course combines the benefits of brisk walking with the calming and strengthening practices of yoga. Students will engage in regular walking sessions to improve cardiovascular health and stamina, followed by guided yoga routines focusing on flexibility, balance, and mindfulness. Emphasis will be placed on proper techniques, breathing exercises, and developing a holistic approach to fitness.



Physical & Health Ed. Courses

MYP (GRADES 5-8)

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION 7/8:

PERSONAL FITNESS - STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7,8

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed to enhance overall physical performance, build muscle, and improve endurance. It provides a comprehensive approach to fitness through a variety of training methods, including weightlifting, bodyweight exercises, and cardiovascular conditioning. Students will learn proper techniques for lifting, stretching, and recovery to maximize benefits and minimize injury risk. Emphasis will be placed on setting personal goals, tracking progress, and understanding the principles of strength training and conditioning.

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION 7/8:

STAGE COMBAT

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7,8

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed to teach students the art of safely performing choreographed fight scenes for theatre and film. Students will learn a variety of techniques, including hand-to-hand combat, swordplay, and the use of other theatrical weapons, all while emphasizing safety, control, and collaboration. Through hands-on practice, students will develop coordination, timing, and the ability to create believable and compelling action sequences. The course also covers the historical context of stage combat and its role in storytelling.

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION 7/8:

MUSICAL THEATRE & CHOREOGRAPHY

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 7,8

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course combines the world of musical theater with physical fitness. Students will explore the fundamentals of dance, singing, and acting, learning to synchronize movement and music in dynamic and engaging routines. The course will cover a variety of dance styles commonly seen in musical theater, from jazz and tap to contemporary and hip-hop, while also emphasizing vocal techniques and expressive performance skills. Through practice and collaboration, participants will develop coordination, rhythm, and stage presence.



Physical & Health Ed. Courses

MYP (*GRADES 9-10*)

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION 9/10:

TEAM SPORTS

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 9,10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed to foster physical fitness, teamwork, and strategic thinking through a variety of popular sports. Students will participate in games such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, and more, gaining fundamental skills and techniques specific to each sport. Emphasis will be placed on developing cooperation, communication, and sportsmanship, as well as understanding the rules and dynamics of team play. Through drills, scrimmages, and friendly competitions, participants will enhance their coordination, agility, and overall fitness.

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION 9/10:

NET & RACKET SPORTS

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed to develop students' fitness by actively engaging students in activities including volleyball, badminton, and tennis. Through a mix of drills, practice sessions, and friendly matches, participants will develop essential skills such as serving, volleying, and proper racket handling. Emphasis will be placed on mastering techniques, improving hand-eye coordination, and understanding the rules and strategies unique to each sport. The course also highlights the importance of fitness, agility, and sportsmanship.

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION 9/10:

FUNDAMENTALS OF MOVEMENT - WALKING & YOGA

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Designed to promote physical well-being, mental clarity, and overall health, this course combines the benefits of brisk walking with the calming and strengthening practices of yoga. Students will engage in regular walking sessions to improve cardiovascular health and stamina, followed by guided yoga routines focusing on flexibility, balance, and mindfulness. Emphasis will be placed on proper techniques, breathing exercises, and developing a holistic approach to fitness.



Physical & Health Ed. Courses

MYP (*GRADES 9-10*)

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION 9/10:

PERSONAL FITNESS - STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 9/10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed to enhance overall physical performance, build muscle, and improve endurance. It provides a comprehensive approach to fitness through a variety of training methods, including weightlifting, bodyweight exercises, and cardiovascular conditioning. Students will learn proper techniques for lifting, stretching, and recovery to maximize benefits and minimize injury risk. Emphasis will be placed on setting personal goals, tracking progress, and understanding the principles of strength training and conditioning.

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION 9/10:

STAGE COMBAT

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 9,10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed to teach students the art of safely performing choreographed fight scenes for theatre and film. Students will learn a variety of techniques, including hand-to-hand combat, swordplay, and the use of other theatrical weapons, all while emphasizing safety, control, and collaboration. Through hands-on practice, students will develop coordination, timing, and the ability to create believable and compelling action sequences. The course also covers the historical context of stage combat and its role in storytelling.

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION 9/10:

MUSICAL THEATRE & CHOREOGRAPHY

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course combines the world of musical theater with physical fitness. Students will explore the fundamentals of dance, singing, and acting, learning to synchronize movement and music in dynamic and engaging routines. The course will cover a variety of dance styles commonly seen in musical theater, from jazz and tap to contemporary and hip-hop, while also emphasizing vocal techniques and expressive performance skills. Through practice and collaboration, participants will develop coordination, rhythm, and stage presence.



Approaches to Learning Courses

(GRADES 5-12)

NAVIGATING MIDDLE SCHOOL: SKILLS FOR CONNECTION

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 5

COURSE LENGTH: 1 YEAR

This course provides our lower middle school students with the opportunity to expand on the learning from their Language & Literature and Individuals & Societies classes, along with additional opportunities to build community within the fifth grade, develop necessary executive functioning skills to navigate a secondary school, focus on social emotional learning, and nurture strong connections with peers and teachers.

SKILLS FOR LEARNING & INQUIRY

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 6

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed to build the foundational knowledge and skills necessary for students to experience success as learners in a secondary setting. It builds understanding of the IB Learner Traits as well as the IB Approaches to Learning, provides students will study skills aligned with a secondary learning setting, delves into digital citizenship and media literacy, and reinforces research skills by exploring leadership traits.

LEARNING SUPPORT: EXECUTIVE FUNCTION

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 5-12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This semester-long elective course helps students develop self-awareness of their strengths and challenges in executive functioning while building essential skills for academic and personal success. Students will focus on organization, task prioritization, time management, goal setting, emotional regulation, and self-advocacy. Through real-world application to their current classes and assignments, they will learn to manage materials, plan for long-term tasks, break down assignments, and prepare for summatives effectively. By integrating practical strategies and advanced tools, the course will foster resilience, communication, and self-regulation to support ongoing growth and success. *There is an additional cost for enrollment in this course through the Learning Support Program.*



Theory of Knowledge Courses

DP (*GRADES 11-12*)

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

CREDITS: 1.0

GRADE LEVEL: 11-12

COURSE LENGTH: 2 SEMESTERS

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is an essential component of the IB Diploma Program. This interdisciplinary course encourages students to reflect on the knowledge they acquire, questioning its origins, validity, and application across various areas of knowledge and ways of knowing. Through critical analysis and open-minded discussion, students will engage with diverse perspectives, examining the role of language, perception, emotion, and reason in shaping their understanding of the world. The course emphasizes the development of analytical and reflective skills, fostering intellectual curiosity and a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of knowledge. One semester is taken in 11th grade, one semester is taken in 12th grade.



Alternative Elective Courses

(GRADES 10-12)

TEACHER'S ASSISTANT

CREDITS: 0.5

GRADE LEVEL: 10-12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

This course is designed the development of practical experience in the classroom. Responsibilities of a teacher's assistant might include assisting with lesson preparation, managing classroom activities, and providing individualized support to students. Participants will learn effective communication techniques and time management skills as they build partnerships with both students and teachers.



Learning Support: Non-Credit Options

(GRADES 5-12)

The goal of the WPS learning support program is to assist students with the skills needed to be successful in school, such as note-taking; homework organization; project planning; test-taking; self-monitoring; and self-advocacy. The following levels of support are offered for an additional fee as add-on services.

TIER I: WEEKLY STUDENT CHECK IN

GRADE LEVEL: 5-12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

15–20 minutes of individualized support each week through regular 1:1 meetings to help students stay on track academically. These sessions focus on reviewing grades, tracking assignments, and creating actionable plans to prioritize tasks. Students also receive tailored strategies, a space to address challenges, and recognition of their achievements to boost confidence and motivation. The day and time of the check-ins will be determined in communication with the family and student.

TIER II: WEEKLY ADVISORY CLASS

GRADE LEVEL: 5-12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Dedicated advisory support class 3x per month to help students develop essential executive functioning skills for academic and personal success. The curriculum focuses on organization, time management, goal setting, and self-regulation through a structured format. Each session includes a check-in to review goals, an interactive lesson with hands-on activities, and time to apply and reflect on the skills learned. This practical approach ensures students build strategies to enhance their productivity and self-management.



Learning Support: Non-Credit Options

(GRADES 5-12)

AFTER SCHOOL SUPPORT

GRADE LEVEL: 5-12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

Students will build essential skills in organization, time management, and task prioritization while supporting assignment tracking and project planning. Students will practice using tools such as planners, digital calendars, and task lists to break down projects, set goals, and create actionable plans for completing their work. Participants can sign up for 1, 2, or 3 days per week, though days may change or be canceled if minimum enrollment is not met. This class equips students with practical strategies to stay on top of their workload and manage their responsibilities effectively.

SOCIAL SKILLS GROUP

GRADE LEVEL: 5-12

COURSE LENGTH: 1 SEMESTER

The weekly lunch/recess social skills group will help students navigate school and life by building confidence and skills for positive interactions. Students will develop foundational social abilities like starting conversations, active listening, and managing emotions while learning to resolve conflicts and navigate peer pressure. Specific group and day will be assigned based on self-identified areas of growth from families and students. This program fosters empathy, self-advocacy, and lasting relationships.



The WPS experiential education curriculum is designed to enhance our learning goals while providing safe and engaging experiences that foster independence, social-emotional development, and personal growth. Each off-campus location is carefully selected for alignment with our curriculum goals and is vetted by WPS and by ISP for safety and security. WPS teachers and school leadership team members chaperone each experience, in addition to the presence of location-specific staff. Prior to each grade-level experience a parent information session is held to cover common questions about transportation; sleeping arrangements; meals; and learning opportunities. All off-campus experiences have an additional charge for participation.

CEDAR SPRINGS

GRADE LEVEL: ALL

The first day of school sets the tone for the year, and incorporates team-building opportunities into the day yields year-long benefits. During our day at Cedar Springs, activities foster a sense of unity among peers, teachers, and staff, breaking down social barriers and creating a more inclusive and welcoming environment for new and returning students. By encouraging students to work together to overcome challenges and collaboratively solve problems, team-building activities promote communication skills—essential for academic success and life beyond the classroom. Additionally, adventures, whether on the triple swing, rock wall, or jumping pillow, will encourage students to step outside their comfort zones, build resilience, and create lasting memories with their peers, helping to strengthen the bonds that will last throughout the year.



ISLANDWOOD

GRADE LEVEL: 5

IslandWood's school overnight program offers students a unique and immersive experience, combining outdoor exploration with hands-on learning in an incredible natural setting. Set on Bainbridge Island, Washington, the program provides our 5th graders with the opportunity to engage in environmental education through activities like hiking, scientific investigations, and team-building exercises, all while surrounded by lush forests and wildlife. Students work together to solve challenges, deepen their understanding of ecology, and gain a greater appreciation for nature. The program's overnight aspect helps foster independence and teamwork as students live and learn in a collaborative setting. With its focus on experiential learning, IslandWood creates a memorable and transformative experience, encouraging personal growth and developing skills that extend beyond the WPS classroom.

MOUNT RAINIER INSTITUTE

GRADE LEVEL: 6

The University of Washington, in partnership with Mt. Rainier National Park, operates a gold-standard residential outdoor education center. Students receive unparalleled STEM education during hands-on activities in old-growth forests. Positive connections to nature help students gain an in-depth appreciation of our State's natural resources. Student-led and tested scientific investigations further highlight the week's focus on scientific inquiry. Students are housed in cabins and chaperoned by WPS staff and the on-site expert educators at the Institute.



CAMP ORKILA

GRADE LEVEL: 7

Each year, our 7th-grade students travel to Camp Orkila on beautiful Orcas Island for a week of outdoor learning, team building, and adventure. Operated by the YMCA for decades, Camp Orkila offers a rich blend of fun and education in a stunning natural setting. From high ropes courses and gaga ball to marine life investigations at the on-site Marine Science Center, students are encouraged to challenge themselves, explore new interests, and connect with the environment.

Cabin life fosters independence and camaraderie, while shared meals in the main dining hall create a strong sense of community. Guided by experienced camp staff and teachers, students build confidence, develop leadership skills, and gain a deeper appreciation for the outdoors.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

GRADE LEVEL: 8

The 8th Grade East Coast Learning Adventure is a week-long journey through key historical and cultural sites in Boston, New York City, and Washington, D.C. Students will explore the roots of American history, with past excursions having included: Boston's Freedom Trail, the Old North Church, USS Constitution, and the excitement of a Fenway Park tour and ghost walk. In New York, past highlights included a Broadway performance of *The Outsiders*, the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, and breathtaking views from the One World Observatory. In Washington, D.C., students have toured the U.S. Capitol and Library of Congress, visited iconic memorials, and participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Stops at the Holocaust Museum and Smithsonian Institution offered a deeper context to classroom learning. With engaging, hands-on experiences, this trip is designed to inspire curiosity, independence, and a lasting connection to our nation's history. Meals and comfortable accommodations are provided, with daily allotments giving students some choice and responsibility.



INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

GRADE LEVEL: 9 10, 11, 12

Travel to a Spanish-speaking country is a culminating experience for our high school students, designed to deepen their language skills and cultural understanding. Past destinations have included Costa Rica and Spain, where students are immersed in the host country's daily life, customs, and traditions. Through guided tours, local excursions, and interactive experiences, students move beyond the classroom to practice their Spanish in real-world settings while exploring each destination's rich history, food, and natural beauty.

Whether hiking through rainforests, touring historic cities, or eating with host-for-a-day families, students are challenged to engage meaningfully with the world around them. This unique opportunity fosters global awareness, independence, and confidence while reinforcing language learning through authentic, hands-on application. The trip is both a celebration of students' progress and a powerful step toward becoming informed, empathetic global citizens.