

Rising 9th Grade Family Presentation



Welcome Class of 2029

Introductions:



Debora Lee
Acting Director of Student Services



West Potomac
Student Services

Introductions:



Jessica Statz
Principal

Learning Targets

Following this presentation I will:

- Understand my graduation requirements
- Know the 2025-26 course registration process.
- Know the factors and inputs to consider to select required and elective courses next year.



Graduation Requirements

Differences between Diploma Types

- Number of credits
 - Core classes
- World Language sequence
 - 3 credits or 2+2
- Which one? Impact on FCPS transcript vs. college application process
- All students start out on the Advanced Diploma track. We do not change diploma types without consulting with the student/family.

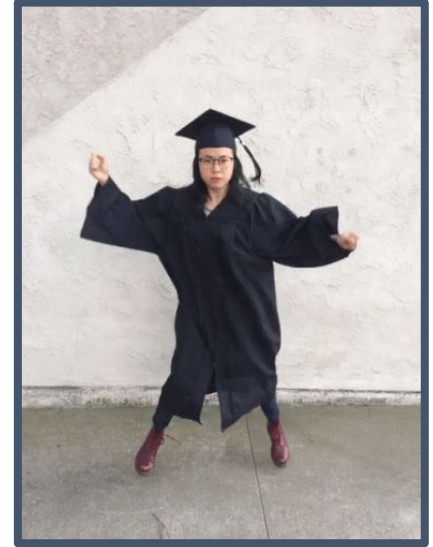
Graduation Requirements

Advanced Diploma		Standard Diploma	
Content Area	Credits	Content Area	Credits
English	4	English	4
History	4	History	3
Math	4	Math	3
Science	4	Science	3
Health and PE	2	Health and PE	2
World Language	3 or 2+2	Fine Arts OR CTE OR World Language	2
Fine Arts OR CTE	1	Electives (including sequential)	4
Electives (including sequential)	3	Economics and Personal Finance	1
Economics and Personal Finance	1		
TOTAL	26	TOTAL	22

Graduation Requirements (cont.)

ALL diplomas also require:

- 5 verified credits (SOLs)
- AP/IB/HN course OR CTE credential
- First Aid/CPR/AED
 - Typically through HPE 9
- Virtual course
 - Economics and Personal Finance satisfies this requirement
- What about service learning?
 - It is NOT a separate graduation requirement
 - Students CAN pursue special recognition (cord, civics seal, etc.)



Verified Credits = SOL Credits

SOL requirements for both Standard and Advanced Diplomas

English	2
Math	1
Science	1
History	1
Total	5



Academic Advising 25-26

Things to consider when selecting courses...

- **Graduation Requirements**
 - Standard vs. Advanced
- **Interests**
 - Which courses are you excited/passionate about?
- **Input**
 - Talk to your current teachers - what do they suggest?
 - Ask your school counselor - students will meet with a MS and HS counselor to discuss their class selections
- **Balance**
 - Consider schoolwork, activities, other commitments

9th Grade Sample Schedules

Sample #1

- English 9
- Algebra 1
- Biology
- World History & Geo 1
- Health & PE 9
- Spanish 1
- Studio Art 1

Sample #3

- Honors English 9
- Geometry
- Environmental Science
- HNs World History & Geo 1
- Health & PE 9
- French 2
- Guitar 1

Sample #2

- Honors English 9
- Honors Algebra 2
- Honors Biology
- AP Human Geography
- Health & PE 9
- Spanish 2
- Advanced Band

Academic Advising/Course Selection 2025

- **Summary**

- What is it?
 - Process to select your 7 classes for 2025-26
- Where do we select/view course requests?
 - StudentVue and ParentVue
- Why is it important?
 - Determines staffing at WPHS to ensure you get the classes you select
- **As of June 11, 2025, all course selections for 25-26 SY are FINAL, so take time to make these important decisions!**

Electives

- **Provide Two Alternate Elective Options**
 - If there is a conflict in your schedule, the alternative course(s) will replace your first-choice elective(s).
- **Example:**
 - 1st Choice: Art 1
 - Alternative Options
 - Photography
 - Creative Writing



Additional Course Options

- **FCPS Online Campus (summer and school year)**
 - Open to all grades - you may take up to two FCPS online courses during the school year.
 - Any school year courses beyond 7 credits will cost tuition; all summer courses cost tuition
 - Cost: \$680, Reduced: \$340, Free: \$68
- **Self-Directed Online Econ & Personal Finance (6120SD)**
 - 8th course, fee required, summer options available, counselor approval required
 - Cost: \$130, Reduced: \$65, Free: \$13
 - Pass/Fail only
 - Registration for 25-26: Jan 6 - May 23, 2025
- **Academy options to consider primary in your junior and senior year:**
 - West Potomac Academy
 - Edison Academy
 - Registration deadline March 7

Online Course Selection

- Course selection in StudentVue for 2025-26 is now live and can be accessed under “Course Request.”
- Directions posted on Academic Advising Website
- Course selection cannot be done through the app – it must be via a computer web browser.
- After student meeting with counselor course selections will be “locked.” Any changes would need to go through HS alpha counselor.
- Parents/Guardians can see course selections in ParentVue.



Directions posted on Academic Advising website

Directions for Entering Course Requests in SIS StudentVUE

(You must use a computer to enter Course Requests. You cannot use your phone.)
 Course requests will not be finalized until the day of your scheduled Academic Advising meeting with your counselor. Any changes to course selections after your meeting must be made through your counselor by March 12, 2025



Download the Course Selection Sheet with Course ID numbers on the WPHS Academic Advising Site:

<p>Log on to SIS StudentVUE</p>	<p>http://sisstudent.fcps.edu Enter Username (student ID) & Password</p>		
<p>Course Requests Search for Courses by Course ID number only. Use the whole Course ID number to make sure you enter the correct course.</p> <p>In this section, you will enter your course requests (7 credits total). <i>Note: Some elective classes are 2 credits.</i></p> <p>Rising 10th Grade students: Health & PE 10 has already been added to your course requests.</p>	<p>Use your mouse pointer and keyboard to enter Course Requests. Do Not Use the 'Enter' key or it will lock your Course Requests.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> On the left side bar, select Course Request To enter course requests: Click here to change course requests All available courses will be shown on the screen. Search for each course using Course ID.  Select Add Request next to the Course you wish to request. All Course Requests will be listed at the top of the screen. Selected Course Requests 		
<p>Alternate Elective Requests Search for Courses by Course ID only.</p> <p>All students must select at least 2 alternate electives.</p> <p>Enter your Alternate Electives in the order you would want them.</p> <p>(for example – if your first-choice alternate is Creative Writing, make sure it has a 1 next to it.)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Search for each Alternate Course using Course ID in the order of preference.  Select Add Alternate next to the Course you want to request as an alternate. Alternate Course Requests will be listed at the top of the screen. Selected Alternate Course Requests Be sure your alternate courses are listed in order of preference. 		
<p>Counselor Meetings</p> <p>Rising 9th – 1/9 - 1/16 Rising 12th – 1/17-2/7 via English 11 Rising 11th – 2/10-2/21 via PE 10 Rising 10th – 2/24 - 3/7 via PE 9</p>	<p>Rising 10th Grade English Social Studies/World History 2* Math Science Health & PE 10 (pre-selected) World Language* Elective</p> <p>* = if needed for Advanced Studies diploma</p>	<p>Rising 11th Grade English Social Studies/US History Math Science World Language* Elective Elective</p> <p>* = if needed for Advanced Studies diploma</p>	<p>Rising 12th Grade English Social Studies/Government Math* Science* World Language* Elective Elective</p> <p>* = if needed for Advanced Studies diploma</p>

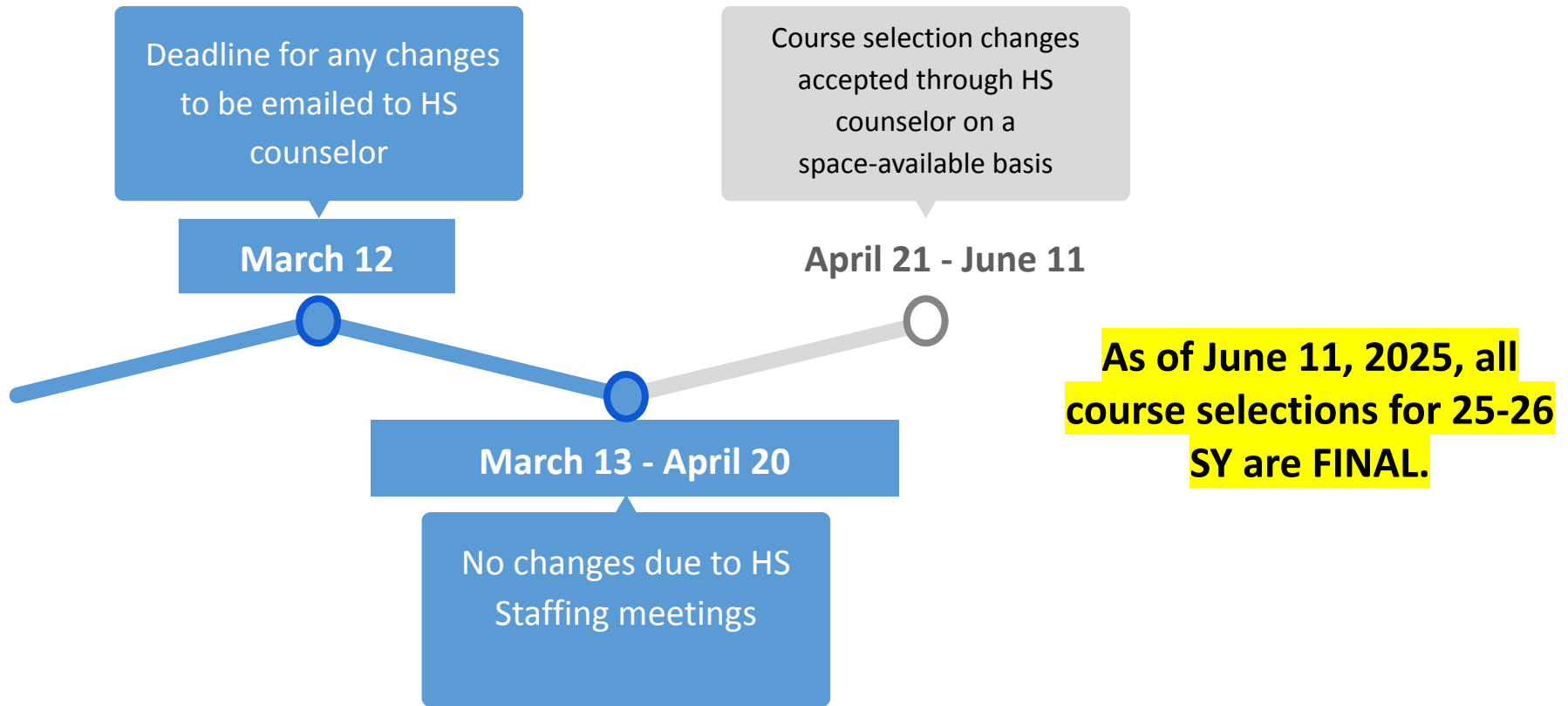
Course Requests Locked? Email your counselor directly.



Resources

- West Potomac Student Services Advising Website
 - WPHS Online Course Catalog - Live
 - 9th Grade Course Offerings Sheet - Posted
 - Directions on how to select classes in StudentVue - Posted
 - HS Counselor Contact Information - Posted
 - Recorded Video Presentation - Seen in advising classes at SMS - Posted
- Rising 9th Course Selection Meetings at SMS
 - January 13-17 - via counselor meetings during PE

IMPORTANT DEADLINES



WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL



**Advanced Academics
January 14, 2025**

What is the Advanced Academics Program?

- ★ Provides challenging and creative learning experiences to uncover and develop learners.
- ★ Academic exploration and knowledge beyond the standard course of study.
- ★ Requires time and effort outside of class.
- ★ Open access to all students.

College preparatory (Honors), College-level (AP) courses, Dual Enrollment(DE)



HONORS

- Use to prepare students for AP Courses or where a comparable AP course does not exist
- Provides foundation for AP success
- Have a +0.5 weighted grade overall.

VS

AP

- College-level courses offered in high school. Covers content taught in introductory college courses.
- AP Exam in May or June
- Students are allowed to take up to 6 AP exams at no cost.
- Have a +1.0 weighted grade overall (upon successful completion of the course and AP exam.)

What are the benefits of Advanced Classes?

- ★ Rigor of high school curriculum is linked to success in college
- ★ Expand a student's ability to *read, write, and think critically*; analyze and solve problems; and build 21st century skills.
- ★ Advanced Academics courses can bolster a HS transcript and improve college acceptance.
- ★ Many colleges grant credit for courses in which students earn a qualifying score on AP examinations.



Requisites for for Success in Honors and AP Classes

- ★ Effort and preparation.
- ★ Able to manage time
- ★ Organized
- ★ Fast-paced and more comprehensive in scope and depth.
- ★ More time outside of class studying and completing tasks.
- ★ Students must or be willing to:
 - think critically
 - analyze and synthesize facts and data
 - Read and write extensively
 - Work independently and/or collaboratively



What West Potomac Offers Students To Help Them Succeed?

- ★ **Strong Professional Learning Staff and Team Culture:** Working collaboratively, teachers can structure common activities, interventions, and instruction based on analysis of assessments.
- ★ **Diverse Instructional Approaches:** Project-based learning (PBL), Blended learning, Hands-on and other strategies that encourages student collaboration
- ★ **Silver Day Rotation:** Remediation/intervention period on every Silver day during which student can visit teachers.



What West Potomac Offers Students To Help Them Succeed?

- ★ **Mastery Learning Policies:** Opportunities to relearn and show mastery of material already covered.
- ★ **WICOR Strategies:** WICOR strategies stem from AVID philosophy and are becoming a mainstay of West Potomac instructional culture
- ★ **Peer Tutoring:** NHS student tutoring program provide after school tutoring support

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL



Reminders

- **Planning to participate in a Marching Band or a Fall sport?**
 - Practices/Tryouts start early August – for some the first week. Plan your summer accordingly!
- **Athletics – a physical dated after May 1, 2025 with VHSL physical paperwork.**
- **More information available at <https://www.westpotomacsports.net/>**
- **Know someone new to FCPS exploring WPHS for 9th grade?**
- **New FCPS Family WPHS Open House - 1/30 - 1pm**
 - **Contact Kevin McMahon for more information.**

Next Steps

- **Electives Open House** - 7:10-8:10pm Cafeteria
- **Breakout Sessions**
 - 7:10pm
 - 7:35pm
 - 8:00pm
- All sessions are available on handouts outside theatre - please take a picture of handouts on table.
- Rooms are mostly upstairs quander - go through new connector and up atrium staircase

Breakout Session Schedule

Topic	Department	Teacher Presenting	Room
English - 9th Grade Diploma Requirement Options	English	Symone Jenkins	416
English - 10th-12th Diploma Requirement Options	English	Colin O'Grady	434
Social Studies - 9th-10th Grade Diploma Requirement Options	Social Studies	Heather O'Grady	433
Social Studies - 11th-12th Diploma Requirement Options	Social Studies	Dan Baldwin	410
HN Econ/Personal Finance & AP Econ	Social Studies	James Dahlgren	404
Math - 9th Grade Diploma Requirement Options	Math	Marcus Johnson	604
Math - 10th-12th Diploma Requirement Options	Math	Linda Graziani	610
Science - 9th Grade Diploma Requirement Options	Science	Garrett Hubbard	706
Science 10th Grade Diploma Requirement Options	Science	Brian Valentine	710
Science - 11th-12th Diploma Requirement Options	Science	Moira Mazzi	705
AP World Languages - Spanish, Latin, French, German	World Language	Yamalie Rodriguez Figueroa	454
AVID	AVID	Dana Hubbard	324
Northern Virginia Community College Dual Enrollment Information	NOVA	Tom Gaffney, NOVA Dual Enrollment Coordinator	322

Plan for Tonight

- **Break Out Sessions - three sessions**
 - Learn more about specific content area
 - **300 rooms**
 - Through new connector, past cafeteria
 - **400 / 700s rooms**
 - Through new connector and up atrium staircase
 - **600 rooms**
 - Past 300 rooms lower level new addition
- **Electives Open House - Cafeteria**

Thank you and Go Wolverines!!



Academic Advising Website

