

**Key Club** – Provides various community services for students.

**Korean Cultural Club** – Shares knowledge of Korea's language and history to increase understanding of the Korean Culture.

**Martial Arts Club** – Gives students the opportunity to learn self defense through martial arts.

**Math Club** – Math Club helps students become better mathematicians and excel in math.

**Muslim Students Association (MSA)** – Shares knowledge of the Islamic language and history to increase understanding of the Muslim Culture

**National Honor Society (NHS)** – This club's members are high academically achieving students of the West High Student Body who actively participate in community service.

**Pacific American Volunteer Association (PAVA) Junior** – To volunteer and help the community through community service projects.

**Photography Club** – Teaches students all aspects of photography to those interested in the art of photography.

**Ping-Pong Club** – Promotes the game of Ping Pong and teaches students how to play.

**Science Research Society (SRS)** – Participates in science competitions such as science Olympiad, science bowl and others as well as discuss new discoveries in the field of science.

**Social Studies Club** – An interactive club that promotes a better understanding of the world through interaction with students from around the country.

**Students For Christ (SFC)** – A student led, Christian service club, serving the West High Student Body as seen through Christ's example.

**Spanish Club** – Teaches students on the West High campus more about the Spanish speaking cultures around the world.

**Speech and Debate** - To encourage and promote public speaking skills as well as improve one's ability to debate.

**Student Book Club (SBC)** – Helps students become more efficient readers and improves upon their ability to analyze literature.

**Surf Club** – Teaches the art of surfing and participates in competitive surf leagues.

**Tutorial Club** – Peer to peer tutoring organized by students for students who need help in their academic classes.

**Woods Club** – This class promotes safety and community in wood working building custom projects and projects for the community.

**Writing Group** – Helps students with their writing skills and expands their knowledge of different writing techniques.

**Yearbook** – Produces the annual year book.

**Youth and Government** – Works in conjunction with the local YMCA to teach students about California state government.



*2009-2010*

**9<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

**STUDENT  
PLANNING GUIDE**

[WWW.WHS.TUSD.ORG](http://WWW.WHS.TUSD.ORG)

## WELCOME TO WEST HIGH SCHOOL

This 9th Grade Planning Guide and Course Description Book is being provided to you as a resource to help you make the most of the opportunities available to you as you enter West High School. It tells you what is needed to meet high school graduation requirements as set by the State of California and the Torrance Unified School District.

Your high school counselor is available to you and your parents to assist in planning your academic program. The guidance program includes counselor-student contact on a scheduled basis throughout the school year. Appointments are also available for individual concerns.

We encourage you to become familiar with this guide and to use it in planning for your 9th grade year.

### FREQUENTLY CALLED WEST HIGH NUMBERS

Principal	Mr. Ben Egan	310-533-4299
Assistant Principal	Ms. Pam Metz, Curriculum	X 7692
Assistant Principal	Mr. Karim Girgis, Student Services	X 7691
Site Supervisor	Mr. Jerry Smith, Business Office	X 7690
Counselors	(A—F) Ms. Alexandra Purchase	X 7610
	(G—Ld) Mrs. Tiffany Garcia	X 7609
	(Le—Q) Ms. Yoko Kobayashi	X 7611
	(R—Z) Mrs. Tania Barricklow	X 7612
	Student Support Counselor Mr. Philip Drasner	X 7702
Activities	Ms. Patty Yoo	X 7640
School Psychologist	Ms. Sharon Carrigg-Bailey	X 7620
Dean of Students	Mr. Tom Strong	X 7619
Attendance Office		X 7800

## WEST HIGH CLUB DESCRIPTIONS 2009-2010

**Amnesty International** – Promotes tolerance for all groups and minorities.  
**Anime Club** – Further develops and discusses interest in Japanese pop culture based particularly in students love for Japanese animation.  
**Arrowheads** – Creates literary magazine, consisting of artwork, poetry, essays, photography, and short stories that are submitted by the West High Student Body.  
**Art Club** – Brings students together who have common interest in art and enjoy participating in art contests, learning of different art careers, and going to art openings.  
**Aviation Club** – Promotes all aspects of aviation such as where to get lessons, airline requirements, careers in aviation, and the design/construction/maintenance of planes.  
**Badminton Club** – Allows Badminton players to improve their skill, and to teach this sport to those who are interested in it.  
**Band Club** – This club's members are part of the West High Entertainment Unit who entertains and competes in competitions throughout Southern California.  
**Black Culture Club (BBC)** – Improves awareness of the African American culture.  
**Ceramics Club** – Allows students to further their creativity through the art of ceramics.  
**Chinese Cultural Club** – Shares knowledge of China's language and history to increase understanding of the Chinese Culture.  
**Choir Club** – These talented vocalists organizes and sponsors Battle of the Bands, The Talent Show, and the Choral Awards Ceremony in addition to sharing their joy of music with the West High Student Body.  
**Choreo Club** – Teaches those who are willing and interested to learn how to dance.  
**Club International** – Promotes learning to increase awareness of different cultures through various activities and who organize Cultural Awareness Week.  
**ComedySportz** – A team of comics that compete in improvisation competition against other schools and teachers.  
**Conflict Mediation** – Practices building skills necessary to peer mediate disputes and resolves conflicts on and off campus.  
**California Scholastic Federation (CSF)** – Academic qualification organization that performs service projects throughout the school year.  
**Drama Club** – Assists the Drama Department to promote and gathers people who have a common interest in theatrical performances.  
**Environmental Club** – Promotes and participates in community environmental programs to increase awareness of environmental issues.  
**Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)** – Presents to athletes, coaches and those whom they influence the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.  
**Future Homemakers of America Home Economic Related Occupations (FHA/HERO)** – Helps students pave their way to future careers through various activities.  
**Film Club** – Gathers students with a common interest in film to discuss its history, makes digital films and attends films and film festivals.  
**French Club** – Promotes interest in French language and culture.  
**Freshman Focus** – Assists freshmen in adapting to high school life by giving monthly information sessions on various aspects of the school in addition to planning a summer orientation program for the incoming freshmen called Warrior Welcome.  
**Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)** – To prepare students for the business world by holding business related activities and doing community service.  
**Games Club** – Provides a location where students can play their board/card/role-playing games at lunch and organizes annual game tournaments on the West High Campus.  
**Gay-Straight Alliance Club** – Informs and allows students to discuss issues pertaining to gays and straights rights.  
**Guitar Club** – To encourage students to learn how to play and write music.  
**Interact** – Participates in school, community, and international services.  
**Japanese Club** – Provides the opportunity for Japanese students to receive help from other Japanese students and promote interest in Japanese culture.  
**Junior Statesmen Association (JSA)** – A non-profit student run organization focusing on politics and debate to promote political activeness.  
**Journalism** – Publishes the monthly school newspaper called the Smoke Signals and competes in journalism competitions.

opportunities will be explored. There will be opportunities to produce and exhibit your student works.

### **THEATER ARTS 1 A/B**

#### **9-12 Semester, Year**

The class will consist of instruction in basic knowledge of the stage, exploration of the actor's tools: movement, voice, and imagination, Theatre appreciation, the production process, and self scripted performances and improvisation in the areas of Pantomime, Storytelling, Oral Interpretation, and Character development. Students are invited to attend workshops, festivals, competitions and to come on field trips if they so desire. All theatre students will be expected to attend or observe at least one audition and one performance of each of the two major productions each year. (Fulfills U.C. "f" requirement)

### **WOOD 1 A/B**

#### **9-12 Semester, Year**

***(No prerequisite, but it is recommended that students complete a semester of Drafting prior to enrolling in Wood 1A.)***

Students will acquire a knowledge of basic woodworking processes and operations and learn to safely use and care for woodworking hand tools and power tools. They will complete a variety of projects throughout the year. Students will acquire knowledge of woodworking joints and use different types of woodworking finishes. Students will make working drawings prior to working on projects of their choice. The requested fees for class materials will be approximately \$30 each semester.

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

A student who completes the following requirements shall be eligible for graduation from high school.

**Satisfactory citizenship** as evidenced by six or more semesters of composite satisfactory and/or excellent citizenship.

*Passing score on both the English and Mathematics California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).*

Completion of a minimum of **220 credits** as specified below:

- ü 20 credits in Mathematics
- ü 20 credits in Science
- ü 40 credits in English
- ü 30 credits in History/Social Science
- ü 5 credits in Health
- ü 20 credits in Physical Education
- ü 10 credits in Visual & Performing Arts or in a single Foreign Language
- ü 75 additional credits in any of the above areas

## 9th GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

English 1  
English 1 Honors

Physical Science of Earth  
Introduction to Engineering Science\*  
Biology 1  
Biology 1 Honors

Algebra 1  
Geometry  
Geometry Honors

Physical Education 9  
Athletics  
Band/Tall Flags P.E.  
Beginning Dance

Health *and* Introduction to Business or Geography

\* *Can be taken as an elective course*

## 9th GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

- Advanced Band
- Art 1
- Band A/B-Field Choreography(Tall Flags)
- Basic Technical Drafting
- Beginning Instruments: Guitar and piano
- Choir
- Food Science and Hospitality
- Foreign Language: French, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Japanese
- Forensic Workshop (Debate)
- Glee Ensemble (females only)
- Keyboarding
- Leadership-ASB
- Percussion Ensemble
- Stage Technology
- Television Production
- Theater Arts 1
- Wood 1

## **KEYBOARDING 1 A/B**

### **9-12 Semester, Year**

Keyboarding 1 is a hands-on computer class that teaches students to type by the touch method using good keyboarding techniques. Accuracy and speed is stressed throughout the course. Students will learn how to identify and operate the basic parts of the programs and equipment used. This course is designed for students who want to learn how to type for personal, college and vocational use.

## **LEADERSHIP A**

### **9-12 Semester, year**

(This course is for ASB Student Council members.)

Student government, parliamentary procedures and school service responsibilities are stressed.

## **PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE A**

**9-12 Semester (Fall Only) Required for all 9th grade percussion students and all members of the marching band drum line**

***Prerequisite: Recommendation of instructor.***

Ability to read music and perform on a percussion instrument is required. Students learn the fundamentals of playing snare drum, tenor drum, cymbals, bass drum, timpani, bells, chimes and Latin percussion instruments. Students take part in the marching band percussion section and drum corp. competition. Daily rehearsals of marching band drum music and ensembles are held.

## **STAGE TECHNOLOGY A/B**

### **9-12 Semester, Year**

Students learn the skills necessary for costume design, management, and set construction, design, and decoration. Students design and build sets for all major school plays and construct a scale model of a simple set of their own design. Participating in drama productions as well as assisting in assemblies which need stage facilities is required.

## **TELEVISION PRODUCTION A/B**

### **9-12 Semester, Year**

This is a year long course in the history, appreciation and production of film and video. The course will cover aesthetic valuing and validity in film, historically significant works in film and video, script writing, filming, directing, acting for the camera, editing and other aspects of film production. School to career

**FOOD SCIENCE AND HOSPITALITY A/B**

**9-12 Semester, Year**

This course emphasizes the study of nutrition, scientific principles, and food preparation procedures. Course units include: safety and sanitation, food marketing and management, food technology

**FORENSIC WORKSHOP (DEBATE)**

**9-12 Semester, Year**

Students develop public speaking skills as they participate in public speech tournaments. They also learn of the theory behind the art of argumentation through debate events. Students will develop researching techniques and skills as they must be prepared for debates on current political issues. Students will be expected to attend all league tournaments barring any major illnesses. The class is graded purely on attendance and effort so all who enroll into this class must be willing to give active participation and attendance at every required tournament.

**FRENCH, JAPANESE, KOREAN, SPANISH, CHINESE**

**8-12 Year**

In level 1 classes the student will learn to understand, speak, read, and write simple sentences in the foreign language. Japanese students will learn to read and write in Hiragana and Katakana (Japanese alphabet) and begin character writing, "Kanji", (Japanese characters). Korean students will learn to read and write Hangul (Korean alphabet). Conversations are used in a variety of ways to learn correct pronunciation and sentence patterns. The teacher will help the student understand the lifestyles and customs of the areas where the language is spoken.

**GLEE ENSEMBLE (FEMALES ONLY)**

**9-12 Year**

This is a more advanced choral group for females, which represents the school in community and school functions. Students will learn how to read music and how to sing without damaging their voice. Students will study all types of choral music in a variety of languages and develop vocal technique, poise and ease in performing. Performance in the Winter and Spring Choral Concerts, Graduation and festivals is required. Intermediate vocal technique, music theory (reading) and sight singing are taught. (Fulfills U.C. "f" requirement)

**Pre-Scheduling Worksheet  
NINTH GRADE**

First semester

English \_\_\_\_\_  
Health *and* Introduction to Business or Geography \_\_\_\_\_  
Science \_\_\_\_\_  
Mathematics \_\_\_\_\_  
P.E. 9, Dance, Marching Band, Athletics \_\_\_\_\_  
Elective (Career Technical Ed., ELD Support Class, Visual & Performing Arts, Foreign Language) \_\_\_\_\_

Second semester

English \_\_\_\_\_  
Health *and* Introduction to Business or Geography \_\_\_\_\_  
Science \_\_\_\_\_  
Mathematics \_\_\_\_\_  
P.E. 9, Dance, Marching Band, Athletics \_\_\_\_\_  
Elective (Career Technical Ed., ELD Support Class, Visual & Performing Arts, Foreign Language) \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

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## REQUIRED COURSES

### **ENGLISH 1**

#### ***9th Year***

English 1 is a student-centered, literature rich, integrated language arts course which offers intensive reading and writing experiences. It is designed to give all ninth grade students a maturing life view of the world and to build their communicative abilities to read, write, speak and listen with confidence.

### **ENGLISH 1 HONORS**

#### ***9th Year***

***Recommendation: A in 8th grade Language Arts and English teacher recommendation***

In English 1 Honors the student reads literature of varied types with in-depth analysis through discussion and writing. An emphasis is placed on writing formal essays and creative work of all kinds. Grades are based on literature and vocabulary tests, written assignments, individual projects, and oral participation.

### **PHYSICAL SCIENCE OF EARTH**

#### ***9th Year***

***Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in Algebra 1 or beyond.***

The Physical Science of Earth (PSE) is an overview of physical science with an emphasis on the earth and provides insight into the means by which scientific knowledge is acquired. This yearlong lab course is based upon the California State Content Standards for Science with a focus placed on developing abilities in problem solving through experimentation and concrete examples.

### **INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING SCIENCE**

#### ***9-10th year***

This interdisciplinary course teaches hands-on physical science, mechanics, electronics, computers, and engineering design. Engineering related coverage of material from the following physical science areas: astronomy and optics, electromagnetic spectrum, electricity and magnetism, forces and motion, thermo-fluid systems, and materials science. Basic mechanical devices (levers, gears, pulleys, springs, etc.) and linkages are mathematically described and examined in lab work. An introduction to basic electronics is given and students learn to breadboard practical circuits.

### **ART 1 A/B**

#### ***9-12 Year***

Students are encouraged to develop creative ability through drawing, painting and the application of fundamental principles of design. Some three-dimensional work is included in student projects. (Fulfills U.C. "f" requirement)

### **BAND A/B (FIELD CHOREOGRAPHY - TALL FLAGS)**

#### ***9-12 Year***

***Prerequisite: By audition or permission of the band director.***

This course is open to all auxiliary members of the band. Drill routines and flag choreography are taught for all parade, half-time and festival performances.

### **BASIC TECHNICAL DRAFTING**

#### ***9-12 Semester, Year***

This course is designed to develop basic skills and understandings in technical drafting that will be helpful in many technical job occupations. Standard drafting techniques are stressed with special emphasis on the theory of shape and size description. Students will use compasses, scales, various templates, and drafting machines to make approximately 45 drawings involving a variety of drafting techniques. Students will spend time learning basic CAD system (computer aided drafting) operations.

### **BEGINNING INSTRUMENTS (GUITAR AND PIANO)**

#### ***9-12 Semester, Year***

This class is open to all students wishing to play guitar and piano. Basic skills taught include: fingering, music reading and musicianship.

### **CHOIR A/B**

#### ***9-12 Year***

This class includes learning two- and three-part music for mixed voices in a wide variety of styles including classical, semi-popular and recent popular arrangements. Students will learn music from a variety of cultures and in a variety of languages. Performance in the Winter and Spring Choral Concerts and at graduation is required.

## **ATHLETICS**

### **9-12 Quarter**

**Prerequisite:** *team tryouts and teacher recommendation.*

The course emphasizes improvement of individual skill level, sports strategy, sportsmanship, and school spirit. Physical performance testing is conducted for 9th graders once each year. Students must meet Torrance scholastic and citizenship requirements plus CIF physical, medical, and insurance requirements.

## **BAND/TALL FLAGS P.E.**

### **9-12 Quarter**

**Prerequisite:** *Membership in Entertainment Unit*

This P.E. class is taught by P.E. teachers and the band director. During the first quarter of the year the P.E. activities are preparation for marching activities. During the remainder of the year regular P.E. units are covered. Students take part in physical fitness testing.

## **BEGINNING DANCE**

### **9-12 Year**

In Beginning Dance students learn the basic elements of dance such as space, time and force. Students deal with other art media in relation to dance, such as painting, poetry, and music. Students will create their own dances in relation to these basic elements. Dance students may participate in a dance production during the school year. 9th graders participate in the "Fitness For Life" program and are given physical performance tests once a year.

## **ELECTIVE COURSES**

### **ADVANCED BAND (CONCERT BAND)**

#### **9-12 Year**

**Prerequisite:** *Students must already play an instrument; required for all 9<sup>th</sup> grade Band students.*

Concert band literature, grades 3 and 4, marching band literature, and appropriate studies, etudes and exercises are rehearsed in small and large groups and performed in public. Members of the advanced band take part in both concert and marching band activities including public performances, music festivals, and SCSBOA judged marching band competition. Students in Advanced Band must enroll in Band P.E. first semester, and must provide their own instruments and equipment. (Fulfills U.C. "f" requirement)

## **BIOLOGY 1**

### **9th-10th Year**

**Recommendations:** *A or B in 8th grade Science and Math courses, and science teacher recommendation.*

**Prerequisite:** *Concurrent enrollment in Geometry or beyond.*

Biology 1 is a course designed to study basic biological principles, including cell theory and systems, cellular biochemistry, genetics, DNA and protein synthesis, biotechnology, evolution, ecology, and human physiology. The investigative approach is heavily emphasized using the scientific method and laboratory techniques. Students can expect to spend one-half to an hour each night on homework assignments. Students who take Biology 1 MUST take Chemistry 1/H or Physics in order to satisfy the science graduation requirement.

## **BIOLOGY 1 HONORS**

### **8th-10th Year**

**Recommendations:** *A's in 7th or 8th grade Science, Language Arts, Algebra 1, and science teacher recommendation.*

**Prerequisite:** *Concurrent enrollment in Geometry or beyond.*

B.S.C.S. (Biological Science Curriculum Study) focuses on several major themes that are interwoven throughout the text: Change through Time; Biological Diversity; Genetic Continuity; Ecological Principles; Relationship between Structure & Function; Regulation & Homeostasis; Science as Inquiry; History of Biological Concepts; Science & Society. This course provides sophisticated knowledge of biology and sharpens students' abilities to analyze information and to cope with important bio-social issues throughout their lives. Students can expect to spend forty-five minutes to an hour each night on assignments and study. Homework is given every night and weekends. There will be several group and individual projects that entail research outside of class. This is the foundation course for Biology AP after Chemistry is taken. Students who take Biology 1 Honors MUST take Chemistry 1/H or Physics in order to satisfy the science graduation requirement.

## **ALGEBRA 1**

### **9-12 Year**

Algebra 1 is the minimum mathematics requirement for high school graduation. All students completing Algebra 1 with a passing grade of A, B, C, may continue on to Geometry. Students earning a D will be recommended to repeat the course. Students earning an F must repeat the course.

## **GEOMETRY**

### **9-12 Year**

**Prerequisite:** *Grade of “C” or better in Algebra 1*

In this course the student will set up a mathematical system in which he/she accepts certain undefined terms, definitions, and postulates (properties) and proves other statements called theorems. This involves creative and logical thinking on the student's part. A great deal of Algebra is applied in the second semester. Therefore, students should have above average grades in previous algebra courses.

## **GEOMETRY HONORS**

### **8-10 Year**

**Recommendation:** *A's in Algebra 1*

Geometry Honors is for the student who has high interest and ability in mathematics. Students will remain in the course for the entire school year. All grades earned will become part of the student's permanent transcript.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Twenty units of Physical Education and five units of Health are required for graduation. Students must be enrolled in P.E. each semester of their 9th and 10th grade year. Failure to pass the California Physical Fitness test by the end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade will result in mandatory enrollment in PE in grades 11-12 until the PFT has been passed.

\*\*\*Uniform Requirement – Each student enrolled in a Physical Education class must have a Physical Education uniform. The cost may vary from year to year. (Approximately \$20.00)

## **P.E. 9**

### **Grade 9 Quarter**

Freshmen have six to twelve time blocks of sports activities during the year. Instruction is given in basic team and individual sports. Credit will be given on a quarter basis.

## **HEALTH**

### **9 Semester**

In Health Education students study thematically the physical, social, emotional, spiritually and mental aspects of wellness. This one semester course is designed to meet the graduation requirements of the Torrance Unified School District. The prevention of disease and the maintenance of a healthy body will be emphasized. The course will include the following units as prescribed by state law.

- The human reproductive system: its organs, functions, and processes
- Sexually transmitted disease: the symptoms, diagnosis, and treatments
- The use and misuse of drugs
- Family Life Education: values and forces influencing individuals and the family unit
- Basic First Aid and CPR

## **INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS**

### **9 Semester**

Introduction to Business will introduce you to the world of business. Through the information and activities in class you will increase your ability to be a knowledgeable consumer, employee, and effective citizen in our economy. This course will give you a background for future employment or business ownership and make you an informed citizen as you go through life. This class gives a good overview for those interested in pursuing career opportunities in business or continuing your education for future technical training or postsecondary education.

## **GEOGRAPHY**

### **9 Semester**

World Geography is designed to provide understanding of the distribution and characteristics of the world's major cultures and of the dynamics of human migration and cultural diffusion. The course will focus on the five themes of geography by region with a focus on political, cultural and economic introduction.