



# RISING 9TH GRADE

Registration Guide 2025–2026

# Table of Contents

- 2 Welcome to Washington!
- 3 Washington Staff Intro
- 4 High School Prep Events
- 6 School Policies & Procedures
- 10 Academic & Graduation Requirements
- 12 Course Sequencing
- 14 Grading
- 15 9th Grade Elective Classes
- 18 Additional Academic Opportunities
- 19 Co-curricular Activities
- 20 Extracurricular Activities & Clubs
- 21 Awards & Honors
- 22 Boosters & Parent Organization
- 23 Course Planning Worksheet



## WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

2205 Forest Dr. SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

319-558-2161  
[washington.crschools.us](http://washington.crschools.us)



@CRSchools



@CRSchools



@CRSchools



# Welcome to Washington!

Dear Incoming 9th Grade Students and Families,

Welcome to the exciting transition into high school! As your principal, I am thrilled to welcome you to Washington High School and to what promises to be a transformative and rewarding chapter in your educational journey at CRCSD. The transition to high school is an important milestone, filled with opportunities for academic growth, personal development, and new experiences. At Washington High School, we are committed to fostering a supportive and challenging learning environment where all students are encouraged to explore their interests, build on their strengths, and prepare for success beyond high school.

This *Rising 9th Grade Registration Guide* provides students and families with valuable information about our diverse course offerings, graduation requirements, and policies and procedures. Please read through the guide in its entirety to help you and your family make a smooth transition into high school.

As you plan for your 9th grade year, I encourage you to take the time to thoughtfully consider your course selections. High school is a time to challenge yourself, explore new possibilities, and develop the skills and knowledge you will need for success in college, your career, and life. Our school counselors and administrators are here to support you every step of the way, so please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or for guidance in planning your academic journey.

I look forward to welcoming you to Washington High School and working together to make your high school experience great.

Ian LeMaster  
Principal, Washington High School



# School Administrators



**THERESA HALL**  
Principal



**JULIE CAIN**  
Assoc. Principal



**RICH JACKSON**  
9th Grade Academy  
Assoc. Principal



**GRANT SCHULTZ**  
Assoc. Principal

## MISSION

A supportive community committed to committed to all students' academic and personal growth to ensure they enter adulthood with purpose.

## VISION

Empowering Learners.

## ALL WARRIORS ARE:

- Responsible
- Engaged
- Persistent
- Supportive

**Enjoy this school year and remember,  
It's Always A Great Day To Be A Warrior!**

# Welcome to High School!

To help you transition smoothly into high school, middle and high school counselors and administrators have organized several events this spring. Here are some opportunities for you and your family to learn more about high school and the class registration process.

## High School Counselors Visits

High school counselors will be visiting each middle school to talk to 8th graders about their transition to high school and the course registration process.

SCHOOL	VISIT DATES
Franklin	March 5 & 10
Harding	March 13
McKinley	March 12
Roosevelt	March 12 & 13
Taft	March 11
Wilson	March 14

## High School Student Assembly

All 8th grade students will be attending an assembly at their designated high schools to learn more about high school life including co-curricular options, extracurricular activities and clubs, athletics, and more.

SCHOOL	ASSEMBLY DATES
Jefferson	March 24
Kennedy	March 27
Washington	March 27

## High School Family Night

Each high school will hold an 8th grade family night where students and their families can tour their high school, meet staff, and learn more about the transition from middle school.

SCHOOL	EVENT DATES
Jefferson	March 24
Kennedy	March 25
Washington	March 27

# Policies & Procedures



## Academic Advising

Washington High School offers a wide range of courses to accommodate diverse student goals, interests, and abilities. Since it's impossible to take every course available, careful and ongoing educational planning is essential. Each student's academic plan, including the number of credits needed each year, may vary based on course selections.

School counselors assist students and parents in monitoring graduation progress. Each year, students receive an Academic Planning Guide when selecting courses for the following year. This guide provides details on course options, college entrance requirements, and academic recommendations. While this information is not included in this handbook, copies are available upon request from the Counseling Office.

## Academic Competency Requirements

The school reserves the right to require specific skills courses or activities of students whose Iowa Assessment results or failed classes reveal educational deficiencies.

## Academic Awards

Students can start earning academic awards or medals to wear at graduation beginning their freshman year. These medals include academic numerals, honor roll, math scholar, social studies scholar, valedictorian, and more. A complete list of all awards is available later on in this registration book and on the Washington website. Please reach out to our school counselors if you would like more information about the different awards.

## Adding Classes

Adding a class may only occur within the first 10 days of the semester. The ability to add a class is dependant on class availability and scheduling needs. This can be discussed with a Washington School Counselor.

## Advanced Placement Courses

Advanced Placement (or AP) courses at Jefferson High School provide students a challenging, college-level educational experience, while still receiving the support of our excellent faculty. AP courses expose our students to new experiences and subjects that they might not otherwise encounter in their other classes. In addition, students have the opportunity to possibly earn college credit (this can vary by college/university, so make sure to ask your counselor or teacher!) by successfully taking the national exams at the end of each course. AP courses are more rigorous than other courses, grades are weighted out of a 5.0 instead of the usual 4.0 grading scale.

## Announcements

School announcements are read live during the second block of each school day.

## Athletic Eligibility

The Iowa Athletic Association requires all high school athletes to maintain satisfactory academic progress. A student who receives a final grade of F or U in any subject will serve a sanction in their next sport or activity. Additionally, students must maintain a passing grade in four credits at midterm to maintain eligibility. Further questions can be directed to the Activities Office.

# Policies & Procedures



## Attendance Policy

All student absences must be excused within 48 hours of the absence via a telephone call (notes not accepted) from a parent or guardian. Our attendance number is 319-558-2498. Washington High School does not accept notes excusing absences. Also, if you are calling to excuse your student for an appointment, please call at least one hour before the student dismissal time so students can be ready. We emphasize that attendance is extremely important. We know that students who attend school regularly perform better in their classes and earn higher grades than students whose attendance patterns are more sporadic. If a student is struggling with attendance, they may go on an attendance contract to correct the behavior.

## Behavior

Students must follow behavior expectations set in the classroom under the Warrior Way guidelines. Specific behavior rules will be available for viewing in the Student Handbook on the Washington High School website.

## Bus Transportation

Students living more than three miles from Washington High School are entitled to free bus transportation. For information call. To submit a bus request, fill out the [WHS New Bus Request Form 2023-24](#) or call the main office 558-2161 or transportation 558-2318. Many students who live within the 3 mile limit ride the city buses for free with a student ID. For city bus route information, please check the [City of Cedar Rapids website](#).

## Calendar

Students will follow an A/B block schedule rotation. This pattern will be every other day, four blocks each day. A copy of the school A/B block calendar can be found on the Washington website. As needed, students will have Homeroom where important school information will be shared. Students will be notified of an upcoming Homeroom day via Announcements and Infinite Campus.

## Chrome Books

Students will be given a district issued Chromebook and charger. Students should bring their chromebook to school every day charged and ready to go. Teachers will not have extra chargers available in their classroom for students to use. It is the student's responsibility to make sure they have their chromebook and charger for their use. If a student loses their chromebook or charger, replacements can be made with a fee attached. Any questions regarding student chromebooks should be directed to Washington's Technology Facilitator.

## Clinic

The Washington health office is open to all students who are in need of medical attention. If a student needs to take medication at school, a form can be completed for the nurse to distribute at the appropriate time of day. A nurse is available to answer any medical-related questions as they arise. Washington also hosts a Metro Care Connections Clinic in our building. Metro Care Connection is a school-based health center that provides expanded health services from a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. Whether it is a simple ear infection, a student physical, or a medical referral, Metro Care grants services to students regardless of ability to pay.

## Closed Campus

Freshman at Washington have a closed lunch. Closed lunch means that students must stay in approved areas of the school (cafeteria, hallways immediately adjacent to the cafeteria, and the courtyard). Other areas, such as parking lots, athletic fields, and academic hallways, are unauthorized.

# Policies & Procedures



## Concurrent Enrollment/Dual Enrollment Courses

To provide for a wide variety of individual student goals, interests, and abilities, Washington High School offers many more courses than it will be possible for you to take during your high school years. Therefore, it is very important that you make your educational plans carefully and keep such plans up-to-date as you progress through high school. An individual student's plan (total credits needed each year) may look different based on the courses taken. Counselors will work with students and parents to analyze student graduation progress.

## Courseload Requirements

District policy requires all 9th graders to maintain a schedule of 7 courses plus 1 study hall or Directed Studies course. Students can complete a full course load of 8 classes but are not eligible to drop below this threshold without district permission.

## Daily Schedule

Washington follows an A/B block rotation schedule every day. There are four blocks a day, with each block being roughly around an hour and a half long leaving ample time for students to complete work in the classroom or in study hall. Lunch is served every day during students' 3rd block class. Passing time is 5 minutes between each block. Start time is 7:50am and dismissal is 2:50pm, per the district calendar.

## Driver's Education

All Driver's Education information is through local community providers at this time. Kirkwood Community College offers evening and summer classes at various locations around the city. StreetSmarts and Right Way Drivers Education are both private providers in the area that are recommended. Funding is up to the student/family but many providers offer subsidized costs. Work with the individual provider for assistance.

## Dropping a Course

Students may find themselves in a situation where they may need or want to drop a class. Dropping classes can have an adverse effect on transcripts. Any class dropped in the first 10 days of a semester will not be reflected on a transcript. A class dropped after the 10th day of the semester requires a drop form and a letter grade of W or F will be issued on the transcript, pending approval from district personnel. If students are failing a course, they have until the 45th day to elect to take the course pass/fail without affecting their GPA. Further questions can be answered through your school counselor.

## Electronic Devices/Cell Phones

Students are prohibited from using cellular phones, earbuds, Chromebook, or other technological devices during classes unless directed by the teacher. The device must be silenced and out of sight. The school is not responsible (monetary value or replacement) for theft, loss, or damage to cell phones or other electronic devices brought onto WHS property.

## Extra Curricular Activities & Eligibility

Students WILL BE ABLE to attend events if they meet all of these criteria:

- Students passing all but one class (reports at the beginning of each 1-week cycle)
- Students with 5 or fewer tardies each week
- Students with 2 or fewer unexcused absences in a 1-week period
- Suspensions and students behavior contracts will also impact eligibility as determined by the admin team.



# Policies & Procedures



## Fees

There is a district-wide High School Consumable Materials Fee of \$96.00 per student. The \$96.00 covers all fees except: music instrument rental fees, music uniform fees, travel expenses including airplane, rental car, charter coach, hotel, and meal costs for extended trips or tours, special materials for personal projects, and PE locker combination locks. The Board of Education approved the \$96.00 fee must be paid by all students. However, if your student is eligible and has registered for free or reduced priced lunches, the Consumable Materials fee is \$59.00. This year, the Consumable Materials Fee must be paid separately from Optional Fees. This process is carefully explained in the annual “back to school” mailing. Required fees can be paid by check payable to Washington High School or online in the Parent Portal of Infinite Campus.

## Handbook

Students will review the digital School Handbook at the beginning of the year during Homeroom. This Handbook is available on the Washington website for students and families to view. All school information can be found in this handbook.

## ID Cards

Students must have a valid Washington High identification card, which is to be carried at all times and made available upon request to staff members. The ID card is necessary for checking out materials from the IMC and for purchasing lunch. It is also an activity ticket that admits the student into all co-curricular events at Washington High School (except for state sponsored tournament events) when the \$60 Activity Pass is purchased. It also admits students to Washington games at Kingston Stadium. Students will be charged for an ID replacement.

## Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus is a vital tool for tracking grades and attendance for students and parents too via the Parent Portal. Parents that need their user ID and/or passcode to Infinite Campus can reach out to the main office for support. Students can reach out to the Washington Tech Facilitator for support as well. Infinite Campus is the tool teachers will use to reach out if/when needed. Please be sure to update your information annually.

## Library IMC

The Washington Library is open from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Materials include a large selection of books, magazines, DVDs, and other non-print items. Students use their district ID number to check out materials. Library materials are checked out for 3 weeks and can be renewed if not on hold for another patron. If items are lost, a replacement cost is requested. The library is a pass only room. Students need to have a pass to stay in the library for the period or have no class scheduled for that period (if a junior/senior). Items can be checked out of the library during passing time without a pass.

## Lockers

Lockers are available to all students who would like one. Students are responsible to sign up for one, they are not automatically assigned. Students can stop in the main office to request a locker. Students are responsible to make sure their lockers are locked. Washington and the CRCSD are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

# Policies & Procedures



## Lunch & Breakfast

Warrior Cafe Lunch is a 30-minute period. The 3rd block period teacher will indicate the lunch time designated for his/her particular class. Students are encouraged to eat lunch in the cafeteria. Breakfast is available from 7:20 to 7:45 a.m. The completely re-designed and remodeled WARRIOR CAFE opened in August, 2014. As students enter the serving area, they are able to choose from five serving lines. Each line offers a different type of food. After choosing their food and beverages, they leave the serving area through several check-out lines.

## Open Enrollment & In-District Permits

Students are required to attend their resident high school based on address, per the district boundaries. If you wish to attend a different school other than your addressed resident school, an application must be submitted via the District website within the enrollment timeframe. Both in-district permits and open enrollment are subjected to an application process and final decisions are made at the district office. Questions should be directed to the district office.

## Orientation

Incoming 9th grade students will have their own Freshmen Orientation a week before school starts. Information about the event will be sent out in August - typically it is half a day in the mornings. Students will receive their schedules and get a chance to walk their schedules while meeting their teachers.

## Parking

Students are permitted to park on school premises. Students must obtain a Washington parking pass and park in the designated student lots. Freshman under the age of 16 must have a school permit.

## Passing Time

Passing time between classes is 5 minutes. In this time, students will have access to their lockers and restrooms, as needed. Students should use this time to get to their next class prepared and on time.

## Repeating a Course

Students who do not successfully pass a core class will need to repeat the class in order to maintain on track for graduation. Core classes include Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Physical Education. Students will be advised to repeat the class failed in person or through alternative options like Credit Recovery. This will be as advised by the school counselor. Please refer to the district's graduation requirements on which classes fall under this requirement.

## Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grading Option

Students have the option of choosing to take one elective course each semester or one year-long elective course to be graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) basis. Students have up to the 45th day of the semester to make this decision. The final grade of an S or a U will not be calculated in the student's GPA. A form must be completed through the school counselor. Core classes are not eligible to be taken pass/fail.

## Schedules

A student's specific class schedule will be available for viewing on Infinite Campus in mid-August.

# Policies & Procedures



## School Supplies

There is not a specific designated list of school supplies at the high school level. Students will be issued a chromebook for their school use. It is recommended that students have a backpack to keep the chromebook in, notebooks, and folders for each class as needed. Students should also have pens and pencils for their classroom usage. Teachers will note if there are specific needs for their classroom in the first few weeks of the semester. The Warrior Closet can assist with any school supplies needs at any time during the school year.

## Staff Contact Information

Should you need to reach out to a teacher or staff member, contact information can be found on Infinite Campus under your student's schedule and teacher listed. Teachers and staff can be reached by email or phone call. Teachers and staff no longer have direct phone number lines, so please call the main office and they will connect you to the correct teacher or staff member. The main office line is 319-558-2161

## Study Hall

Freshmen are required to have at least 7 classes, with 1 being a study hall, per district guidelines. Study hall is hosted in the cafeteria and is required to be attended, as attendance will be taken daily. Students can use this time to complete their homework or work with a teacher if they need help. Students are required to remain in their seat and work quietly during this time, unless they have a pass to be elsewhere.

## Visitors

All visitors to Washington High School must check in at the main office and sign in between 7:00 AM and 3:30 PM. As a district security measure, visitors are required to present a valid driver's license or identification card, which will be scanned through the Raptor system. To ensure a smooth visit, visitors are strongly encouraged to contact the school in advance to plan their meeting. Visitor passes may be issued to those sponsored by a Wash student, but visits are discouraged during the first and last week of a semester and the days surrounding a school holiday. Passes will not be issued to students from other metro-area schools. Visitors must be of high school age, enrolled in a school outside the metro area, and have their visit approved by an administrator at least 24 hours in advance.

# Academic & Graduation Requirements



## Graduation Requirements

Graduating from Washington High School is an important milestone that requires careful planning and dedication. To earn a diploma, students must complete a minimum of 40 credit hours, following the graduation requirements set by the Cedar Rapids Community School District and the state of Iowa.

Washington operates on a semester system, with most courses earning one credit per semester. Some high school credit-bearing courses taken in middle school may also count toward graduation. Our diverse course offerings allow students to explore their interests, challenge themselves academically, and prepare for future college and career opportunities. School counselors will work closely with students and parents to ensure progress toward graduation while allowing flexibility to adapt to individual goals and aspirations.

Subject	Required Credits	Details
English Language Arts	8 Credits (4-years)	LA 9, LA 10, & 4 additional semesters of
Mathematics	6 Credits (3 years)	Including Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 & many upper level math courses
Science	6 Credits (3 years)	Including Biology, Chemistry, and Physics courses.
Social Studies	6 Credits (3 years)	Including World History, US History, American Government, and Economics
Physical Education	4 Credits	One semester of PE per year <small>*The State of Iowa requires students to complete a CPR course for high school graduation per Iowa Code 281-IAC 12.5(20).</small>
Elective Courses	10 Credits	Various Options Available
World Language	0 Credits	

## Program of Studies

To provide for a wide variety of individual student goals, interests, and abilities, Washington High School offers many more courses than it will be possible for you to take during your high school years. Therefore, it is very important that you make your educational plans carefully as you progress through high school. Counselors will work with students and parents to analyze student graduation progress. The high school's *Program of Studies Book* includes the list of all available high school courses and is available on the CRCSD District website or by scanning the QR code.





# Course Sequencing

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS: 4 YEARS REQUIRED

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grades 11 & 12
Language Arts 9 or Advanced Language Arts 9	Language Arts 10 or Advanced Language Arts 10	US Humanities & Composition World Humanities & Composition African American Humanities & Composition Perspectives in Literature & Comp AP English Language & Composition AP Literature & Composition

## MATH: 3 YEARS REQUIRED, 4 YEARS RECOMMENDED

Sequence Options	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grades 11	Grade 12
Sequence Option 1	Algebra 1 or Advanced Algebra 1	Geometry or Advanced Geometry	Algebra 2 or Advanced Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus or AP Pre-Calculus Finite Topics with Statistics AP Statistics AP Calculus Survey of Data Applied Math Financial Literacy Math
Sequence Option 2	Geometry or Advanced Geometry	Algebra 2 or Advanced Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus AP Pre-Calculus Ap Statistics	AP Calculus AP Statistics Finite Topics with Statistics Survey of Data Applied Math Financial Literacy Math
Sequence Option 3	Algebra 2 or Advanced Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus AP Pre-Calculus Ap Statistics	AP Calculus AP Statistics Finite Topics with Statistics	Finite Topics with Statistics Survey of Data Applied Math Financial Literacy Math

## SCIENCE: 3 YEARS REQUIRED, 4 YEARS RECOMMENDED

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grades 11	Grade 11 & 12
Biology or Advanced Biology	Chemistry Advanced Chemistry Concepts in Chemistry	Physics AP Physics 1 Concepts in Physics	Earth Science AP Environmental Science AP Biology Anatomy and Physiology Forensic Science 1 or 2 AP Chemistry AP Physics C AP physics 2

# Course Sequencing

## SOCIAL STUDIES: 3 YEARS REQUIRED, 4 YEARS RECOMMENDED

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grades 11	Grade 12
World History AP World History AP Human Geography AP European History AP African-American Studies	US History or AP US History	American Government AP US Government & Politics AP Comparative Government & Politics	Economic AP microeconomics AM Macroeconomics

## SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVE COURSES AVAILABLE

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African American History</li> <li>• Human Geography</li> <li>• Psychology</li> <li>• Social Psychology</li> <li>• Current World Issues</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philosophy</li> <li>• AP European History</li> <li>• AP Psychology</li> <li>• Introduction to Psychology</li> <li>• US History to 1877</li> <li>• US History Since 1877</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION: 4 YEARS REQUIRED

Grade 9	Grades 10-12
Performance PE Personal Fitness Health & Fitness 1	Performance PE Personal Fitness Team Fitness Health & Fitness 1 Health & Fitness 2

# Grading

## Grading Scale

The high school grading system and its numerical equivalents are as follows:

Grading Scale for Non-weighted Courses	
A+	4.33
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1.00
D-	0.67
F	0.00

Grading Scale for Weighted Courses	
A	5.00
A-	4.67
B+	4.33
B	4.00
B-	3.67
C+	3.33
C	3.00
C-	2.67
D+	2.33
D	2.00
D-	1.67
F	0.00

## Weighted Courses

To encourage students to pursue a challenging learning experience, all courses providing students the opportunity to earn college-level credit will be calculated on a 5.0 grading scale. This includes all AP courses, world language courses that do not have an AP option, all Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) courses, and all concurrent enrollment courses taken both at Kirkwood Community College and within CRCSD. These courses are identified in the CRCSD Program of Studies with a “W” for weighted course.

## Grade Point Calculation (GPA)

Grade Point Average (GPA) is a number that represents how well you are doing in your classes. It is calculated by averaging the grades you earn in each subject, using a scale from 0 to 4. On this scale, an A+ is worth 4 points, while an F is worth 0. As explained above, some courses use weighted grades, like Advanced Placement (AP) classes, which can boost your GPA above 4.0 because they are more challenging. Your GPA can go up or down depending on how well you do in your classes each semester. A GPA of 3.0 or higher is considered good, but some top colleges look for students with a GPA above 3.5. Keeping a strong GPA is important because it can affect opportunities like scholarships, college admissions, and even future jobs.

# 9th Grade Elective Course Offerings



For further/more specific course descriptions, please see the district [Program of Studies](#)

COURSE	CREDIT	LENGTH
<b>Freshman Seminar</b>  This course is designed to support freshmen in their transition to high school. Students will experience content learning and develop skills in alignment with the Portrait of a Graduate. Areas of learning include: self-awareness, interpersonal skills, habits for academic success, college and career planning, community engagement, employability skills, and career exploration. This course is strongly encouraged for all 9th grade students.	1 Credit per semester	2 Semesters
<b>Art Elective Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art 101: introduction to all areas of art, strong foundation for future advanced art</li> <li>• Ceramics 1: building with clay by hand-building and wheel thrown pottery</li> <li>• Digital Art 1: using the computer to create and express art, including Adobe</li> <li>• Drawing 1: develop your drawing from life skills</li> <li>• Painting 1: painting using watercolor and acrylic paint</li> <li>• Sculpture: studying 3D art, sculpting both in real life and using various media</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	1 Semester Each
<b>CTE: Business/ Computer Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Fundamentals: aspects including ownership, management, marketing, finance</li> <li>• Computer Science: computer programming using Scratch MIT, Alice &amp; other software</li> <li>• Entrepreneurship: explore the process of owning a business</li> <li>• Money Management: employee pay &amp; benefits, filing taxes, budgeting, bank accounts</li> <li>• Personal Finance: savings, investments, credit, housing, insurance, automotive finances</li> <li>• Sales and Marketing: market planning, selling, promotion, market research &amp; branding</li> <li>• Video Game Marketing and Design: promote &amp; market a video game, programming</li> <li>• Web Design Principles: creat, edit, and maintain a website</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	1 Semester Each
<b>CTE: Family and Consumer Science</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to Health Occupations: explore diverse aspects of healthcare and related careers</li> <li>• Leadership Development: Help students build basic leadership skills</li> <li>• Personal Wellness: emphasizes the importance of personal responsibility in health and wellness</li> <li>• Topics in Childhood Development: covers children's health issues from conception to school age.</li> <li>• Food Fundamentals and Nutrition: Focused on nutrition, measurements, kitchen safety, food safety, and cooking methods.</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	1 Semester Each
<b>English Language Arts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative Writing: students develop and refine their writing skills across various genres.</li> <li>• Intro to Media - Journalism: learn to interview, report, write, and produce stories. Prepares students for participation in the school yearbook or school news media.</li> <li>• Speech and Debate: develop and improve public speaking skills in a variety of situations.</li> <li>• Stagecraft and Design: students learn technical aspects of theatre safety, lighting, sound and set production.</li> <li>• Theatre Arts and Performance: study the artistry and history of performance through playscript analysis.</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	1 Semester Each



# 9th Grade Elective Course Offerings



For further/more specific course descriptions, please see the district [Program of Studies](#)

COURSE	CREDIT	LENGTH
<b>CTE: Technical Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction I, &amp; II: covers the use of basic measuring tools, layout, and the fundamentals of construction.</li> <li>Engineering Essentials: exposure to the Project Lead The Way engineering program.</li> <li>Introduction to Engineering and Design: students dig deeper into the engineering design process, applying math, science and engineering standards.</li> <li>Robotics and Automation: introduction to the rapidly growing field of robotics and manufacturing.</li> <li>Woodworking I &amp; II: covers the use of basic measuring tools, layout, and the fundamentals of woodworking.</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	1 or 2 Semesters depending on course
<b>General Studies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PACT Seminar: completion of long-term projects that foster critical thinking</li> <li>IJAG: project based class focused on seven essential themes: career readiness, character and Self development, communication and Technology, critical thinking and productivity, life skills, self advocacy, conflict resolution, and work based learning.</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	1 Semester Each
<b>Music</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concert Band: build performance skills and prepare students for the audition based band ensembles.</li> <li>Concert Choir: choir members exhibit strong vocal technique, music reading skills, and performance.</li> <li>Color Guard: membership determined by audition, focus on rhythmic movement, precision, and flag handling.</li> <li>High School Singers: exposure to a variety of choral literature with a focus on basic vocal and performance techniques.</li> <li>Marching band: competitive, performance band that performs marching band literatures at football games, festivals, and contests.</li> <li>Show Choir: audition required, vocal production, choreography, and performance.</li> <li>String orchestra: focuses on basic instrumental string techniques, tone production, music reading, and balance.</li> <li>Music Workshop: designed to give students the opportunity to explore their musical interests including composition, instruments, and song writing.</li> <li>Digital Music: create, edit, produce, and arrange music using a digital platform.</li> <li>AP Music Theory: builds skills in music theory, melody, harmony, form, and composition.</li> <li>Jazz Band: Ensemble exploring diverse jazz techniques and styles.</li> </ul>	.5 or 1 Credit per semester	1 or 2 Semesters depending on course
<b>World Language Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French I or II</li> <li>German I or II</li> <li>Japanese I or II</li> <li>Spanish I or II</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	2 Semesters

# 9th Grade Elective Course Offerings



For further/more specific course descriptions, please see the district [Program of Studies](#)

COURSE	CREDIT	LENGTH
<b>Science</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earth Science: geology, astronomy, and climate history</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	2 Semester course
<b>Social Studies Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AP US Government and Politics: study the development of constitutional government in the US.</li> <li>AP Human Geography: explore how humans have understood, used and changed the surface of the earth.</li> <li>AP European History: the impact Western European civilizations has had on contemporary affairs.</li> <li>AP Comparative Government &amp; Politics: examines the world's diverse political structures and practices.</li> <li>Philosophy: the study of the purpose of life, reasoning behind logic and discipline</li> <li>Psychology: factors influencing our choices and behavior, why we do what we do</li> <li>Social Psychology: values, beliefs, norms, and institutions of a society</li> <li>African American History: examine African American history from the nation's founding up to the present day.</li> <li>Current World Issues: analyzing what is going on in the current global world</li> <li>Human Geography: study the relationship between people and places</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	1 Semester Each

# Additional Academic Opportunities

---



## IowaBIG

To provide for a wide variety of individual student goals, interests, and abilities, Washington High School offers many more courses than it will be possible for you to take during your high school years. Therefore, it is very important that you make your educational plans carefully and keep such plans up-to-date as you progress through high school. An individual student's plan (total credits needed each year) may look different based on the courses taken. Counselors will work with students and parents to analyze student graduation progress.

## Kirkwood Classes

To provide for a wide variety of individual student goals, interests, and abilities, Washington High School offers many more courses than it will be possible for you to take during your high school years. Therefore, it is very important that you make your educational plans carefully and keep such plans up-to-date as you progress through high school. An individual student's plan (total credits needed each year) may look different based on the courses taken. Counselors will work with students and parents to analyze student graduation progress.

# Co-curricular Activities



## Band

Washington High School's band program offers a balanced curriculum providing opportunities at all stages of musical development. There are three concert bands, two jazz bands, and a marching band. Incoming freshman have a few scheduling options:

- First Semester: Marching band/color guard or fall concert band (freshman only)
- Second Semester: Wind symphony, symphonic band, or concert band
- Jazz band

## Orchestra

Orchestra is a year-long class. There are two orchestra ensembles for students to participate in - String Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra

## Choral Music

The Washington High School choral department is committed to providing all interested students with a positive, growth-focused singing experience. Choir members learn about vocal production, music theory, and ensemble singing. Student can choose to join a choir, jazz vocal ensemble, or show choir.

## Debate

The Debate Team helps students develop critical thinking, public speaking, and argumentation skills by researching and debating current issues. The debate team trains and participants compete against other teams across the country at in person and online tournaments.

## Drama/Theatre

Students bring stories to life through multiple stage productions each year, participating as performers, musicians in the pit orchestra, or behind the scenes in the tech theater program.

## Speech Team

The Speech Team offers two seasons: Large Group Speech, where students perform together in events like ensemble acting and group improv, and Individual Speech, where they showcase solo talents. Students rehearse and compete in contests, performing for peers and judges in various categories.



# Extracurricular Activities & Clubs



**Find your passion and get involved. If you have an idea for a club, all you need to do is find a staff member to sponsor your club and submit an application.**

- Academic Decathlon
- Adastra (WHS's National Honor Society)
- Amnesty International
- Art Club
- Backpacking Club
- Bible Study
- Black Student Union (BSU)
- Book Club
- Chess Club
- Circle of Friends
- Debate Team
- Drama Club
- Dungeons and Dragons Club
- E-Sports
- Future Business Leaders of America
- Green team
- GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance)
- Guatemala Service Trip
- Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA)
- Improv Club (FDIC)
- Individual Speech
- Interact
- Japanese Club
- Juggling Club
- Knitting and Crochet Club
- Large Group Speech
- Magic the Gathering Club
- Performing Arts Technicians
- Science Club
- Special Olympics
- Take Charge
- The Surveyor (school newspaper)
- Video Game Club
- Warrior Bots (Robotics)
- Warriorettes
- Washington Literary Press
- Washington Warriors Rugby
- WHS Maize

# Awards and Honors

At Washington High School, we want to recognize and reinforce the hard work and accomplishments of our students. Starting in 9th grade, students can start earning academic awards or medals to showcase their hard work and can be worn at graduation. These medals include academic numerals, honor roll, math scholar, social studies scholar, valedictorian, and more. A complete list of all awards is available in the student handbook or reach out to the main office for more information.

- Academic Numeral: Earn a minimum GPA of 3.0 for both semesters of grade 9.
- Academic Letter: Earn a minimum GPA of 3.0 for any two consecutive semesters during grades 10-12.
- Academic Certificate: Students who earn at least a 3.0 GPA for four or six consecutive semesters receive a special certificate.
- Outstanding Four-Year Math Scholar: Complete four years of math courses.
- Outstanding Four-Year Science Scholar: Complete four years of science courses.
- Outstanding Four-Year World Language Scholar: Complete four years of a single world language.
- Outstanding Four-Year AP Social Studies Scholar: Complete four years of AP Social Studies courses.
- Credit Club: Earn 54 semester credit hours over the course of four years.
- AP Scholar: Scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.
- AP Scholar with Honor: Average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more exams.
- AP Scholar with Distinction: Average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams.
- Four Years of AP Testing Award: Take at least one AP exam each of four years.
- The Academic Honors Program: Earn a minimum of 42 total credits, 30 of which are from core subjects (language arts, math, science, social studies, and world language), and maintains a minimum 3.0 GPA in core subject classes.
- The Academic Honors Program With Distinction: Earn a minimum of 48 total credits, 34 of which are from core subjects, (language arts, math, science, social studies, and world language), and maintains a minimum 3.33 GPA in core subject classes.
- Valedictorian Scholar Award: Cumulative GPA of 4.0 or above.
- Salutatorian: Cumulative GPA between 3.95 and 3.99.
- President's Award For Academic Excellence: Sponsored by the President of the United States and presented to seniors with cumulative GPA at or above 3.5 and scores on national standardized tests at or above the 85th percentile.
- National Merit Commended, Semi-Finalist and Finalist Awards: Based on PSAT scores and given by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

# Parent/Guardian Organizations

---



Washington High School benefits greatly from four parent support groups. The PTA (Parent Teacher Association), the Washington Athletic Club, Patrons of the Performing Arts, and Friends of Forensics all provide extensive support.

## PTA

The Washington PTA invites all parents, guardians, and teachers to become involved at Washington. All are encouraged to attend PTA meetings. The daytime meetings are held online at 9:00 am on the second Tuesday of each month. Attending these meetings is the best way to stay informed about the school's news and events. The Warrior ONE\*FUND fund-raising program and your membership helps PTA provide the following academic support to Washington: Academic Letters, Iowa Assessment Awards, Senior Awards, National Honor Society, teacher conference scheduling and meals, art showcase, post prom party, freshman orientation, open house, grounds beautification, and special academic needs. The PTA also sponsors the Warrior Closet which provides free access to school supplies, clothing, shoes, food, and personal item to students in need. During Homecoming and Prom, the Warrior Closet provides access to dresses, suits, and tuxes for students to select for those upcoming events. Contact the main office for more information regarding PTA.

## Washington Athletic Club

The Washington Athletic Club has provided uninterrupted support for Warrior athletics since the school opened in 1957. The WAC contributes approximately \$60,000 each year to fund all 22 athletic programs at WHS. Many volunteers work to raise those funds. The Athletic Club is invaluable to Wash sports programs!

## Patrons of the Performing Arts

Patrons of the Performing Arts (PPA) is a parent volunteer support group for band, choir, dance, drama, orchestra, speech and technical theater. Founded in 1984, PPA donates upwards of \$100,000 each year to support the fine arts programs at WHS. They provide uniforms, music, cover travel expenses, sets for plays, fees for competitions and much more. PPA also focuses on capital campaigns to improve and replace outdated equipment at WHS. In the past 5 years they have purchased a Steinway piano, replaced seating in both the Auditorium and Little Theater and are currently working to replace all the lighting in both theaters. Volunteers plan, organize, and host all of the performing arts events. These events give students incredible opportunities to share their talents and grow their skill sets. For more information check out our website: <https://washppa.com/>.

# Plan Your Future at Washington High School!



## 9th Grade Schedule Planning Worksheet

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Language Arts: .....	Language Arts: .....
Math: .....	Math: .....
Science: .....	Science: .....
Social Studies: .....	Social Studies: .....
PE or Elective: .....	PE or Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....

Total Credits: .....

Total Credits: .....



# Plan Your Future at Washington High School!



## 10th Grade Schedule Planning Worksheet

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Language Arts: .....	Language Arts: .....
Math: .....	Math: .....
Science: .....	Science: .....
Social Studies: .....	Social Studies: .....
PE or Elective: .....	PE or Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....

## 11th Grade Schedule Planning Worksheet

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Language Arts: .....	Language Arts: .....
Math: .....	Math: .....
Science: .....	Science: .....
Social Studies: .....	Social Studies: .....
PE or Elective: .....	PE or Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....

# Plan Your Future at Washington High School!



## 12th Grade Schedule Planning Worksheet

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Language Arts: .....	Language Arts: .....
Math: .....	Math: .....
Science: .....	Science: .....
Social Studies: .....	Social Studies: .....
PE or Elective: .....	PE or Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....

NOTES: