

# West Hills Middle School

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Descriptions

### REQUIRED CLASSES

#### SCIENCE:

**Biology Honors:** The Biology Core includes three major concepts for instruction. (1) The structures in all living things occur as a result of necessary functions. (2) Interactions of organisms in an environment are determined by the biotic and abiotic components of the environment. (3) Evolution of species occurs over time and is related to the environment in which the species live. Students will be expected to design investigations in the laboratory and field using research technologies.

**Earth Science:** The theme for Earth Science is systems as an organizing concept to understand life on Earth, geological change, and the interaction of atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere. Earth's place in the universe, internal structure, atmospheric processes, and resources are explored to help students understand how Earth Science interacts with society.

#### LANGUAGE ARTS:

**Language Arts 9:** This course is designed to emphasize reading comprehension, writing, and methods of inquiry as found in the core. The course will focus on the processes, skills, and strategies for effective communication in all its forms.

**Language Arts 9 Honors:** This course, based on the 9th Grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is designed for students who qualify for more advanced instruction in reading comprehension, writing, methods of inquiry, and the processes, skills, and strategies for effective communication.

#### MATHEMATICS:

**Secondary Mathematics 1:** *Prerequisite: 8th Grade Mathematics*

Students in Secondary Mathematics 1 will deepen and extend their understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomenon, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will use properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend their understanding of geometric knowledge. Algebraic and geometric ideas are tied together. Students will experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problems situations.

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**Secondary Mathematics 2 Honors:** *Prerequisite: Secondary Mathematics 1 Honors*

Students in Secondary Mathematics 2 Honors will focus on quadratic expressions, equations, and functions, extend the set of rational numbers to the set of complex numbers, link probability and data through conditional probability and counting methods, study similarity and right triangle trigonometry, and study circles with their quadratic algebraic representations. Honors students will also represent complex numbers and their operations on the complex plane, solve systems of equations, prove and apply trigonometric identities, express conic sections algebraically, and solve problems using volume measurements.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:**

**World Geography:** Geography is the study of physical and human characteristics of Earth's people, places, and environments. Students will develop geographic thinking skills by studying the "why of where" as they examine the interactions, interconnections, and implications of forces shaping our world today. They will apply geographic knowledge and geo-literacy skills to identify, locate, interpret, analyze, and evaluate geographic patterns and processes. These standards emphasize both human geography and physical geography, and students will explore the interconnections between the two.

**Human Geography AP:** This college level course covers the nature and perspectives of geography, population, cultural patterns and processes, political organization of space, agricultural and rural land use, industrialization and economic development, and cities and urban land use. University credit can be earned with a successful performance on the Advanced Placement (AP) exam.

**Participation Skills & Techniques:** This course focuses on demonstrating the ability to plan and implement different types of personal fitness programs, demonstrate competency in lifetime activities, describe key concepts associated with successful participation in physical activity, model responsible behavior while engaged in physical activity, and fill a need for self-expression, challenge, social interaction and enjoyment.

**This class is required for graduation.**

**Connection Class:** This course provides an opportunity for students to establish a positive relationship with an adult role model in the school, to engage in silent sustained reading, to participate in character education and to focus on study skills and monitor progress toward academic and career goals. Teachers provide students with academic support in a mentorship environment. Participation in this class will help to enhance the core curriculum and to create a more positive environment in the school. Students have the opportunity to earn .25 credits per semester based on participation in all Teacher Advisory activities.

**ELECTIVE CLASSES**

**Art Foundations 2:** (ART) Art Foundation 2 provides an overview and introduction to visual arts through studying a variety of art tools and materials. This course builds on Foundations 1 with a more in-depth experience with fewer art forms. This course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art-related technology skills, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics, with an emphasis on studio production.

**There is an additional fee of up to \$20 for this class.**

**Band 1: Beginning:** (ART) This course in beginning band is offered for students who have had little or no previous experience in playing an instrument. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. **An instrument is required.** If available, an oboe, bass, clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, or tuba may be rented at the school for a nominal fee.

**Band 2: Concert:** (ART)

This is an intermediate level band course that encourages increased technical and expressive musical proficiency through performance and study of music. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. **An instrument is required.** If available, an oboe, bass clarinet, bassoon, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, or tuba may be rented at the school for a nominal fee.

**Band 3: Symphonic:** (ART)

This advanced course performs varied, advanced level music. Marching band may be part of the course requirement during marching season. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade. **An instrument is required.** If available, an oboe, bass clarinet, bassoon, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, or tuba may be rented at the school for a nominal fee.

**Business Office Specialist:** (DS) (CTE) This course applies advanced concepts and principles using word-processing, spreadsheets, databases and electronic presentation software. Students will integrate applications learned. **This course may be used as CTE or Digital Studies credit.**

**Ceramics 1:** (ART) Ceramics develops basic skills in the creation of 3-D forms and pottery from clay. Techniques in hand building, wheel throwing, basic glazing, and firing are taught. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking and art-related technology skills. Some art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included. **There is an additional fee of up to \$20 for this class.**

**Ceramics 2:** (ART) This is an intermediate course that builds upon the concepts and skills learned in Ceramics 1. Students will consistently produce quality pieces of ceramics. **There is an additional fee of up to \$20 for this class.**

**Child Development:** (CTE) This course covers the development of a child from conception through adolescence. The course includes the following topics: reproductive tracts, prenatal development and care, healthy lifestyles conducive to health pregnancies, birth defects, and the development and care of children throughout childhood. Guidance and discipline techniques and the physical, social, and emotional development of children will also be examined. The student learns both how and why a child grows and develops. This class is a prerequisite for any of the higher-level child development courses. **There is an additional fee of up to \$20 for this class.**

**Choir 1: Soprano/Alto (High Key):** (ART) This is a vocal music course open to all students with soprano or alto vocal ranges. Two, three or four-part music is performed at various concerts. Primary consideration is given to part-singing, good vocal production, and rudiments of music. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirements and constitute a portion of the grade.

**Choir 1: Tenor/Bass (Low Key):** (ART) This is a vocal music course open to all students with tenor or bass vocal ranges. Two, three or four-part music is performed at various concerts. Primary consideration is given to part-singing, good vocal production, and rudiments of music. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirements and constitute a portion of the grade.

**Choir 2: Mixed:** (ART) This is a vocal music course that is open to all students. It covers three and four-part music and a review of singing fundamentals. Approval of the instructor may be required. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirements and constitute a portion of the grade.

**Concert Choir:** (ART) This is an advanced vocal music group that is designed for students to sing advanced choral literature and build more techniques in singing. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirements and constitute a portion of the grade.

**Creative Writing 1:** (ELEC) This course, based on Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Writing Standards, is designed to introduce students to imaginative composition with the writing of personal experiences, character sketches, short fiction, and poetry. Students will have the opportunity to prepare manuscripts for publication, awards, and scholarships.

**Dance 1:** (ART) This course offers basic dance techniques, fitness fundamentals, movement qualities, and rhythm with an emphasis on creativity, sequencing, and problem solving.

**Dance 2:** (ART) This intermediate course emphasizes techniques, choreography, and improvisation. Performances outside of the regular school day may be required, and they will constitute a portion of the course grade.

**Dance Company:** (ART) *Audition Required*

A course designed to enhance and develop all aspects of dance technique and composition, emphasizing creativity and artistic choreographic skills. There will be performances outside of class time that are part of the course requirements, and they will constitute a portion of the grade.

**Drawing 1:** (ART) Drawing focuses on black and white or monochromatic rendering from life, pictures, masterworks, and imagination. This course is designed to develop higher-level thinking and art-related technology skills with an emphasis on studio production. Some experiences in art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included. **There is an additional fee of up to \$20 for this class.**

**Drawing 2:** (ART) This is an intermediate course in drawing that builds on the skills and concepts taught in Drawing 1. The use of value is emphasized. Atmospheric perspective and accurate shading are studied along with composition. **There is an additional fee of up to \$20 for this class.**

**Engineering Technology:** (CTE) This course shows students how technology is used in engineering to solve everyday problems. The units excite and motivate students to use their imaginations and teach them to be creative and innovative, while gaining the skills they need to develop, produce and use products and services. Gateway to Technology-PLTW is an approved curriculum for this course. Units may include: Design and Modeling, The Magic of Electrons, The Science of Technology, Automation and Robotics, as well as Flight and Space. **There is an additional fee of up to \$20 for this class.**

**Exploring Business & Marketing:** (CTE) Students will be exposed to the fundamental concepts of business and marketing. Skills include basic business concepts, organizational communication, human resources management, entrepreneurship, accounting, finance, and leadership.

**Exploring Computer Science:** (DS)CTE) This course is designed to introduce students to the breadth of the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Rather than focusing the entire course on learning particular software tools or programming languages, the course is designed to focus the conceptual ideas of computing and help students understand why certain tools and languages might be utilized to solve particular problems. The goal of the course is to develop in students the computational thinking practice of algorithm development, problem solving, and programming with the context of problems that are relevant to the lives of today's students. Students will also be introduced to topics such interface design, limits of computers as well as societal and ethical issues. **This course may be used as CTE or Digital Studies credit.**

**Foods and Nutrition 1:** (CTE) This introductory course is designed for students who are interested in understanding the principles of nutrition and in maintaining a healthy life-style. Attention will be given to selection and preparation of food and personal health and well-being. **There is an additional fee of up to \$20 for this class.**

**Guitar 1:** (ART) This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play a guitar. Emphasis will be placed on: playing position, tone production, fundamental technique, simultaneous playing and singing, reading music, and composing songs/lyrics. Knowledge and skills will include experiences in singing, playing, listening, and connecting to cultures. An instrument is required for class time, as well as for practicing outside of class.

**Guitar 2:** (ART) This is a course is designed to provide students with more advanced strums, bar chords, and melodic picking. An instrument is required during class. Practice outside of class time with an instrument is also required.

**Marine Biology & Oceanography:** (ELEC) The study of the marine environment, living and nonliving, will be studied in this semester course. Fish, marine mammals, the physical environment of the sea and environmental challenges facing the world's oceans are examined.

**Orchestra 1:** (ART) This course is designed to assist individuals interested in playing a violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students work in group situations suitable to their ability. Emphasis is on growth in technical proficiency, orchestral literature, and performance. **An instrument is required.** Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade.

**Orchestra 2:** (ART) This is an intermediate-level orchestra class focusing on intermediate-level literature for orchestra. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirements and will constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. **An instrument is required.** If available, a viola, a cello, or a string bass may be rented from the school for a nominal fee.

**Painting 1:** (ART) Painting 1 includes wet and dry color media with processes such as transparent and opaque painting focusing on the properties of color. Techniques with color media mixing and application will be covered. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking skills and art-related technology skills. Some art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included. statement in a painting. **There is an additional fee of up to \$20 for this class.**

**Racket/Net Sports:** Improved fitness is a goal of each individualized Lifetime Activities course. The curriculum provides diverse offerings to meet the individual needs of all students to develop competency in specific activities, but not limited to: pickleball, tennis, speedminton, ping pong, racquetball, etc. Students will be able to apply basic/advanced skills, strategies and rules using standardized guidelines or rubrics to be successful in their class.

**Release Time- Seminary:** Students who are enrolled in the Release Time Religious Education Program must attend the class scheduled at the assigned time or they will be in the regular school program. **No credit is received.**

**Sculpture 1:** (ART) Sculpture is an overview of basic skills used to create 3-D works of art. Both additive and subtractive techniques will be taught. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking skills and art-related technology skills. Some art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included. **There is an additional fee of up to \$20 for this class.**

**Sewing 1:** (CTE) This course covers basic sewing skills while completing a variety of projects. This course emphasizes the construction of sports and outdoor clothing. Students start with easy projects like boxer shorts and progress to ski wear, sweats, camo shirts, pants, zippered bags, and polar fleece jackets. Subjects such as clothing care, maintenance and textile information are covered. Projects are individually selected. Participation in the FCCLA youth organization may be an integral part of this course. **There is an additional fee of up to \$20 for this class.**

**Social/Ballroom Dance 1:** (ART) This course offers instruction and practice in the basic social dance steps, rhythms, and techniques. The following dances may be included; foxtrot, cha-cha, waltz, swing, mambo, western swing, and western line dance.

**Spanish 1:** (ELEC) This course is designed to teach elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skills to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course, student skill level should be at novice-mid level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

**Spanish 2:** (ELEC) This course is designed to teach intermediate skills in listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skills to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course, student skill level should be at novice-mid level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

**Spanish 3H:** (ELEC) This course is designed to teach intermediate skills in listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skills to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course, student skill level should be at novice-mid level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards.

**Spanish for Native Speakers 1:** This course is designed to teach elementary academic skills in reading and writing for the native speaker. The course content includes further development of reading and writing skills for students who already have a grasp of the spoken language. Opportunities to share cultural information from countries where Spanish is spoken will be available to students.

**Student Aide:** (ELEC) This is a semester course that offers students a unique experience working with teachers and staff. This position provides an opportunity to observe and model an adult at work. It provides a wide range of learning opportunities in areas such as life skills, human development, and career exploration. Teacher aides experience the opportunity to practice reliable citizenship and social skills as they interact with peers, school staff and the general public. *Students must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA and no N's or U's in citizenship to be eligible.*

**Study Skills:** (ELEC) This course is a course in which students learn and apply social and academic skills and strategies. This class may cover the following areas: Organization, time management, stress management, reading strategies, test taking strategies, study strategies, note taking, academic tracking, team work, communication and goal setting, learning and interest assessments.

**Theatre 1:** (ART) This is an introductory course in theatre with an emphasis on performance and playwriting. No previous experience is necessary. The course will include, but not be limited to, improvisation, monologues, characterization, movement, playwriting, and work with voice projection and diction. Other skills learned and developed include critical thinking, rehearsal skills, plot structure, reading, writing, and cooperative group work. **There is an additional fee of up to \$20 for this class.**

**Theatre 2:** (ART) This is an intermediate course in theatre with an emphasis on performance and playwriting. The course will include, but not be limited to, playwriting, characterization, monologues, and scenes from plays, movement, voice projection and diction, and improvisation. Other skills learned and developed include critical thinking, rehearsal skills, plot structure, reading writing, and cooperative group work. **There is an additional fee of up to \$20 for this class.**

**Yoga:** (ELEC) This class focuses on structural alignment, increase of and flexibility. It will deepen student's awareness of breath and role it has in generating energy and stamina in one's mind and body. The course will also incorporate techniques for stress relief, and enhance one's physical performance by teaching students how to connect breath, organ systems, physiology and anatomy all together.

## **Credit Legend**

**ART-** Fine Arts Credit   **CTE-** Career & Technical Education Credit   **DS-** Digital Studies Credit   **ELEC-** Elective