

CHOOSING WISELY: WAHS PROGRAM OF STUDIES UPDATES

JANUARY 23, 2025



West Allegheny School District

*A Tradition of Excellence...
A Vision for Tomorrow*

CAREER + COLLEGE *readiness*



West A students are **College Ready** if they maintain a 2.8 GPA and meet **one or more of the academic benchmarks** on the Road to Readiness.



West A students are **Career Ready** if they maintain 90% attendance and meet **one or more of the career benchmarks** on the Road to Readiness.

College Credits

Pass a Dual Enrollment or Concurrent Enrollment English or Math Course by earning an A, B, or C grade or pass a College Developmental English or Math with an A, B, or C grade

Advanced Placement



Earn an A, B, or C grade in an advanced placement course and/or pass an advanced placement exam with a score of 3 or higher

Algebra 2



Pass an Algebra 2 Course by earning an A, B, or C grade

Standardized Testing

Earn qualifying scores on the following standardized tests:

- SAT Exam: Math (530) | Reading & Writing (480)
- ACT Exam: English (18) | Reading (22) Science (23) | Math (22)
- College Readiness Placement Tests



READY
college. career. life.

Co-Curricular Activities

Participate in two or more organized co-curricular activities

Community Service

Participate in 25 or more hours of Community Service

GPA 2.8

Maintain a GPA of 2.8 or above



Attendance

Maintain 90% or above attendance rate



Career Pathways

Engage in learning aligned to a career interest, through participation in one of the following:

- Concurrent Enrollment Course Aligned to Career Interest
- Early College in High School Academy Course Aligned to Career Pathway
- Earning an Industry Credential
- Workplace Learning Experience

**High School
Benchmark
(Grades 9-12)**

Agenda

- Acknowledgments & Awards
- Career & College Pathways
- 2025-26 Program of Studies Highlights
- New & Adjusted Courses
- ECIHSA Expansion
- Graduation Requirements
 - Academic Requirements
 - PDE Requirements
- Activities & Clubs
- Summary of Supports
- Guiding you through the Scheduling Worksheet & Teacher Recommendations
- Scheduling Timeline
- Q & A



High School Awards and Acknowledgments



7 Consecutive Years:
2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023,
2024



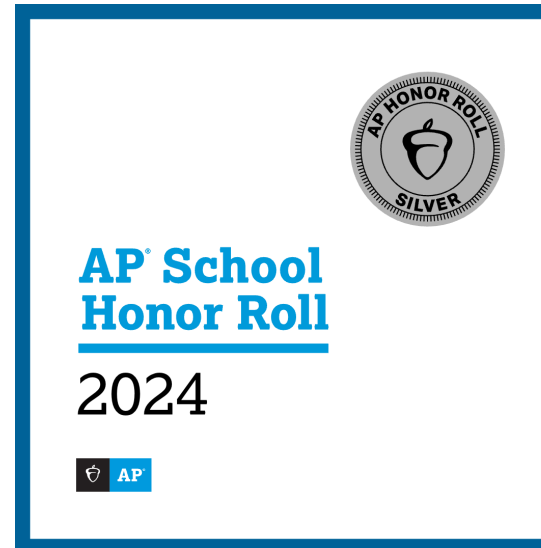
6 Consecutive Years:
2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023,
2024



6 Consecutive Years:
2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
2024



Earned Recognition in 2022



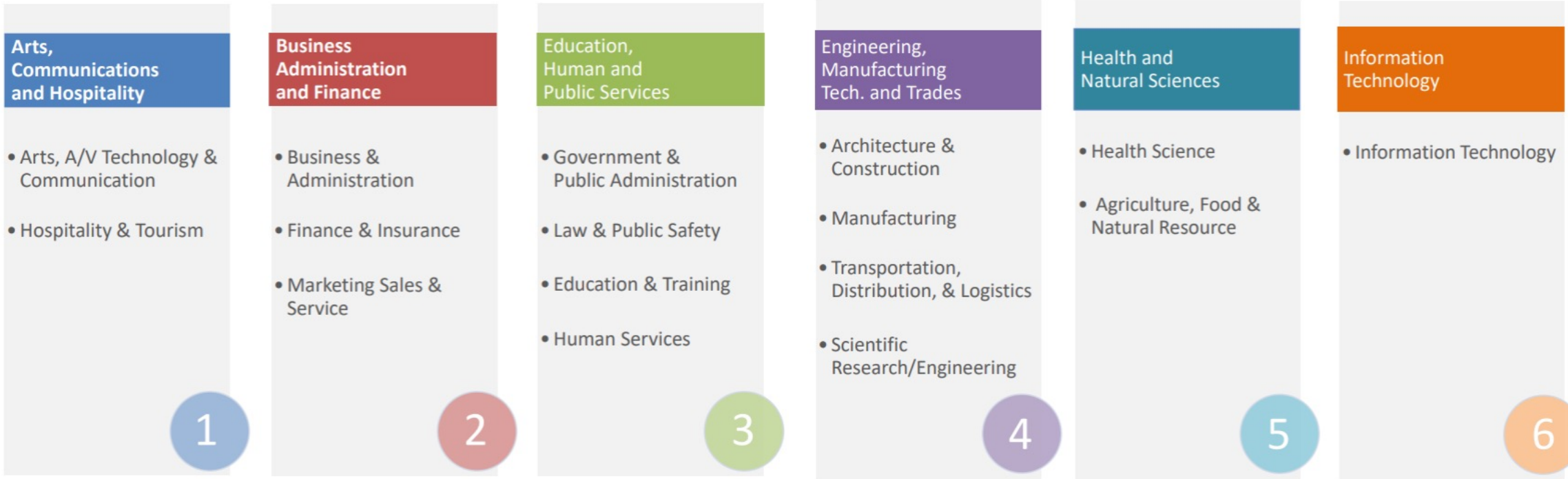
2 Consecutive Years: 2023, 2024

- College Culture:** 40% or more of the graduating cohort took at least 1 AP Exam during high school. (Silver 62%)
- College Credit:** 25% or more of the graduating cohort scored a 3 or higher on at least 1 AP Exam during high school. (Gold 41%)
- College Optimization:** 2% or more of the graduating cohort took 5 or more AP Exams during high school. At least 1 of those exams was taken in 9th or 10th grade, so that students are spreading their AP experience across grades rather than feeling disproportionate pressure in any single year. (Platinum 20%)



West Allegheny High School

Career & College Pathways and Aligned PA Career Clusters



2025-26 Program of Studies Highlights

- ECIHSA expanded to include a concurrent enrollment partnership with Seton Hill University (4 programs)
- Dual enrollment program with CCAC
- ACCELERATE section in the Summary of Programs
- Parkway Automotive Cluster
- Student Internships
- Additional courses added (10) and adjusted (16) to meet the interests and needs of our students; total course offerings now 188



ECIHSA Expansion

1 New Partner



- 18 courses – 49 credits
- \$230 for a 3-4 credit course
- \$80 for a 1 credit course

4 New Concurrent Programs

- Art Education (B.A.)
- Exercise Science (B.S.)
- Global Studies (B.A.)
- Pre-Art Therapy (B.A.)

1 New Dual Enrollment Program



- Health Sciences Program
- CCAC West Hills Center
- Half-day program (Pkwy Bus)
- Seniors only
- 2 courses a semester – 14 credits
- \$225 for a 3-credit course
- \$300 for a 4-credit course

New Courses

1. AI Adventures
2. IT Fundamentals (RMU-3cr)
3. Journalism (SHU-3cr)
4. Professional & Technical Communications
5. Modern Band 1
6. Modern Band 2
7. Modern Band 3
8. Functional Nutrition and Health (SHU-3cr)
9. Ethical Studies (WAVA only)
10. Automotive Cluster (Parkway)



Adjusted Courses

1. AP US History (RMU-3cr; now available in person)
2. Electrical & Mechanical Systems (CCAC-6cr; name change from Home Systems)
3. Cybersecurity (RMU-3cr; name change from Intro to Cybersecurity)
4. Advanced Ceramics 2 (SHU-3cr; name change from Ceramics 2)
5. Honors Art 4 (SHU-3cr)
6. AP Drawing (SHU-3cr)
7. German 3 (SHU-3cr)
8. Spanish 3 (SHU-3cr)
9. Honors German 4 (SHU-3cr)
10. Honors Spanish 4 (SHU-3cr)
11. AP German (SHU-3cr)
12. AP Spanish (SHU-3cr)
13. Chorus (SHU-1cr for Juniors & Seniors ONLY)
14. Show Choir (SHU-1cr for Juniors & Seniors ONLY)
15. Band (SHU-1cr for Juniors & Seniors ONLY)
16. Wind Ensemble (SHU-1cr for Juniors & Seniors ONLY)



Understand the programs available



- 16 Career & Technical Education Programs in partnership with Parkway CTC
- JROTC
- 25 Early College in High School Academy (ECIHS) programs
- Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma Program including 22 AP Courses (exam fees paid by the District)
- WAVA & WALC (alternative educational programming)
- Special Schedule Options/Requests

Overview of Courses

- 188 Courses
 - 161 In Person Courses
 - 113 WAVA Courses (27 WAVA Only + 86 aligned to in person courses)
- 69 ECIHSA Courses
- 22 AP Course (19 are also ECIHSA)

West Allegheny High School Courses by Level of Rigor



Tier 1 courses are accessible to all learners and consists of built-in supports to guide students as they engage with new content.

Foundational Courses

Tier 2 courses are progressively more rigorous than Tier 1 courses and provide a balance of in-classroom and out-of-classroom expectations. These courses predominately include honors and entry level college courses.

Intermediate/Honors Level Courses
(including some entry level college courses)

Tier 3 courses are the most rigorous courses students may engage in while at WAHS and advance student learning at the college level. Most Tier 3 courses are Advanced Placement and 2nd year and above college level courses.

Advanced/Early College Level



AP Capstone

AP Capstone Curriculum

AP Capstone Diploma™

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in both of the AP Capstone courses and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing will receive the AP Capstone Diploma™.

AP SEMINAR (Year 1)

Team Project & Presentation

Research-Based Essay & Presentation

End-of-Course Exam

AP RESEARCH (Year 2)

Research Process Documentation

Academic Thesis Paper

Presentation & Oral Defense

4 AP COURSES & EXAMS

(Taken at any point throughout high school)

AP Seminar and Research Certificate™

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in both of the AP Capstone courses but not on the four additional AP Exams will receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™, signifying successful performance in those courses.



Parkway West Career & Technology Center



Automotive Technology Cluster*	Construction Technology Cluster*
Automotive Technology: Auto Body Repair	Construction Technology: Carpentry
Automotive Technology: Automotive Technology	Construction Technology: Electrical Systems Technology
Automotive Technology: Diesel Technology	Construction Technology: HVAC/R
Automotive Technology: Power Motorsports	Construction Technology: Welding
Cosmetology	Healthcare Occupations Technology
Culinary Arts	Public Safety Technology
Cyber Security & Networking Technology	Sports Medicine & Rehab Therapy Technology
Graphic Design & Production Technology	Veterinary Assistant Technology

*First year students in Automotive Technology Cluster and Construction Technology Cluster will rotate between all four programs within their area.



Marine Corps Junior ROTC

- 4-year program that provides our students with much-needed skills in citizenship and leadership.
 - *Motivate* students to learn.
 - *Foster* a disciplined and constructive learning environment.
 - *Instill* essential skills like time organization, responsibility, goal setting, and teamwork.
- Studies have shown that students who participate in JROTC programs have better attendance, and grades.






West Allegheny Virtual Academy (WAVA)

- Courses are aligned with WA curriculum and monitored by certified WA teachers
- Full-time or singleton enrollment opportunities
- Summer enrichment and credit recovery courses available
- Students are welcome to participate in any available extracurricular activities and sports in which they are eligible



ECIHSA Programs

 Grades 10 – 12	 Grades 9 – 12	 Grades 9 – 12	 Grades 11 – 12	 Grade 12
\$230/3 or 4-credit course; \$80/1-credit course	\$126/course – Concurrent; \$75/credit – Dual	\$250/course	\$375/credit	\$125/credit
<u>Accelerated Bachelor Degree Options:</u> -Art Education -Exercise Science -Global Studies -Pre-Art Therapy <div style="font-size: 48pt; transform: rotate(-15deg); opacity: 0.5;">NEW!</div>	<u>Associate Degree Options:</u> -Multimedia Programming, Simulation & Gaming <u>Certificate Options:</u> -Multimedia Game Simulation -Mechatronics Technology <u>Dual Enrollment (seniors only):</u> -Health Sciences Program <div style="font-size: 48pt; transform: rotate(-15deg); opacity: 0.5; position: absolute; right: -50px; bottom: 0;">NEW!</div>	<u>Accelerated Bachelor Degree Options:</u> -Business Administration (2 concentrations) -Criminal Justice & Pre-Law -Cybersecurity -Early Childhood Education -Engineering -Special Education <u>Non-Degree Option:</u> -General Studies	<u>Accelerated Associate Degree Options:</u> -Aerospace Management -Professional Pilot -Air Traffic Controller	<u>Accelerated Associate Degree Options:</u> -Automotive Technology -Collision Repair Technology -Construction Electricity Technology -Diesel Technology -Industrial Electricity Technology -HVAC Technology <u>Accelerated Diploma Program Option:</u> -Welding Technology

Graduation Requirements:



Graduation Requirements:

Academic Requirements:

- 4 high school credits in English, Math, Science, & Social Studies
(students that attend Parkway are required to take 4 years of English & Math and 3 years of Science & Social Studies)
 - Minimum **courses** per subject include:
 - English: Grade-level credit each year
 - Math: Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry are required with a math credit each year
 - Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and at least 1 more science credit
 - Social Studies: US History, American Government, World Cultures, and at least 1 more social studies credit
- 0.5 credit of Physical Education and 0.5 credit of Health
- Minimum of 26.25 total credits (min. of 9.25 elective credits)



Graduation Requirements:

Keystone Requirements (PDE Act 158):

- PDE Act 158 expands the options for students to demonstrate post-secondary readiness beyond proficiency on all three Keystone Exams.
 1. Keystone Proficiency Pathway (Algebra 1, Literature, & Biology)
 2. Keystone Composite Pathway
 3. Career and Technical Education Concentrator Pathway
 4. Alternative Assessment Pathway
 5. Evidence Based Pathway



Graduation Requirements:

Career Readiness Requirements (PDE) :

Students must satisfy the following:

- Completion of the Civics Exam (grade 10)
- Successful completion of the Career Education and Work Standards Portfolio (grades 9-11)
- Industry-Based Learning Experience(s) (grades 9-12)



Clubs & Activities

Art Club	GSA	Stage Crew
Book Club	Mini-Thon	Stand Together
Chess Club	Model United Nations/ Model African Union/ Model European Union	Students in Action (SIA)
Fall Musical Production	Ski and Snowboard Club	Varsity iLead
Future Educators	Speech and Debate	Workout and Exercise Club
Garden Club	Spring Musical Theater Production	



Athletics

Club Sports

Esports	Ice Hockey	Rugby
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Athletics

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
Cheerleading	Bocce (Unified)	Baseball
Cross Country	Bowling	Girls Flag Football
Football	Boys Basketball	Lacrosse
Golf	Girls Basketball	Softball
Boys Soccer	Cheerleading	Swimming
Girls Soccer	Gymnastics	Boys Tennis
Girls Tennis	Indoor Track	Track & Field
	Swimming and Diving	Girls Volleyball
	Wrestling	



Summary of Supports

Career and College Readiness Teaming

Career Seminar Course (embedded within World Cultures/AP World History courses)

Familylinks Counseling Services

Freshman Academy

Guidance Team Support (QR code, Career/College Ready Curriculum)

Peer Tutoring

West Allegheny Learning Center (WALC)



Advanced Course Potential Letters



WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Tradition of Excellence ... A Vision for Tomorrow

Dear Katharine and Parent/Guardian of Katharine Roche:

We are very pleased to share with you that Katharine has been identified as a student with potential to succeed in advanced coursework, including Advanced Placement (AP), Early College In High School Academy (ECHSA), and/or honors courses. We believe Katharine should strongly consider enrolling in one or more of the following advanced courses:

AP English Literature & Composition
Classic and Modern Literature
Film Studies
Journalism
Oral Communication
AP Calculus BC
AP Statistics
AP Psychology
Corrections and Social Issues
AP US History
Programming in C# and C++
Managerial Accounting
Technology for Teachers

Katharine's potential for success in these advanced courses was determined using multiple data points, including the student's current course enrollment and performance, information from the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS), and the College Board's 2024-2025 PSAT/SAT Suite of Assessments score report. Combining these data sources has provided us with a well-rounded prediction of Katharine's ability to succeed in rigorous coursework.

Advanced courses, particularly AP and ECHSA courses, offer students the opportunity to engage in college-level material while still in high school. We currently have 66% of our students of the high school enrolled in these courses. These courses not only help students prepare for their post-secondary goals but also provide opportunities to earn valuable college credits, which can reduce both the cost and time required for a college degree. Studies show that students who succeed in AP or Early College coursework while in high school are better prepared for college and are significantly more likely to persist to graduation within five years.

As we approach future scheduling, we encourage the consideration the advanced courses listed above when entering course requests for the 2025-26 school year.

Please feel free to contact your school counselor for more information or to discuss Katharine's future academic plans.

Sincerely,

West Allegheny High School Administration & School Counselors

Katharine's Counselor is: Mr. Alan Puglia
apuglia@westasd.org
724-695-5249

Dr. Cheryl McHone,
Lead Principal

Dr. Katharine Roche,
Academic Principal &
Director of Special
Projects

Mrs. Toni Baldanzi,
Assistant Principal,
grades 9 & 12

Mr. Gary Hutsler,
Assistant Principal,
grades 10 & 11

Mr. Matt McBurney,
Dean of Students &
Director of WAVA

Did you know?

The College Board has developed robust online score report tools for the redesigned SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT™10, and PSAT™8/9 tests. These online score reports provide personalized insights into students' performance, breaking down results beyond the numbers. Additionally, these tools connect students to free, personalized SAT study resources, AP course recommendations, and college and career planning tools. To learn more, visit apstudent.collegeboard.org.

- Personalized letters using multiple data points including:
 - Students current course(s)
 - Performance in course(s) during quarter one
 - Projections for AP courses from College Board based on the fall PSAT and SAT data
 - PVAAS projection report for AP courses
- Process and Goal
 - Before scheduling, eligible students and parents will receive an Advanced Course Potential Letter via email and sent home in the mail
 - Intended to use the students' data to build confidence and support students with course recommendations during the scheduling process



Scheduling Worksheet

[Scheduling Worksheet.pdf](#)



Scheduling Timeline and Q&A?

Date	Scheduling Event
January 23	Choosing Wisely Presentation (HS Students during AM Advisory; Parents virtual presentation @ 5:00 pm)
January 23 – February 4	Students discuss course options with their teachers & families
January 24	Rising Freshmen Scheduling Part 1: Program of Studies Overview (Social Studies classes) Advanced Course Potential Letters Sent Out (Email and Postmail)
January 27	HS Coffee & Conversations for Families (8:00 am virtual meeting) Rising Freshmen Scheduling Part 2: Scheduling Workshop (Social Studies classes)
February 4	Rising Freshmen Scheduling Part 3: Entering course requests (First period class - 7:45 am)
February 5	High School course requests entered in Skyward (PM Advisory)
May 30	Move Up Day
May 30 – June 13	Schedule Change Request Window

