

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

You have probably heard that Tennessee's High School redesign begins with this year's eighth graders. While there are some big changes taking place, we will do everything possible to explain the changes to you and your child.

Here are a few tips for you and your student.

- The program of studies for freshmen has an explanation of all courses offered at WCHS, plus information parents like to have regarding rules and requirements.
- The registration form your student has been asked to share with you is fairly simple (we hope!). Freshmen have several "required" classes they must take which include English, math, Science, Social Studies, and Lifetime Wellness.
- Your student's math class will be selected based on TVAAS (Tennessee Value Added Assessment System) scores, and teacher recommendations, and an end-of-year placement test. English and social studies are selected based on teacher recommendations, and science is based on a score from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade science section of the T-CAP test.
- The blanks left over on the registration form are for "electives" or classes your student elects to take. Freshmen choices are limited, but every class they may take is listed in the pink Freshmen Course Choice brochure.
- Inside is information about the elective focus. While the initial four-year plan is begun this year, it will be evaluated each year of high school.
- All students are required to take 4 English classes, 4 math classes, 3 science classes, 4 social studies, lifetime wellness, one personal finance, one fine art and two years of the same foreign language. In addition, students will choose an elective focus based on interests.
- One area that may cause confusion is Math. Our highest math is Advanced Placement Calculus which students generally take senior year. Math requires us to look ahead to senior year so we know what a student would have to take to get that goal. In order to meet all the prerequisites by senior year the plan could look like this:

12 <sup>th</sup> grade	AP Calculus – 2 semesters, year-long course
11 <sup>th</sup> grade	Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry (Term 1) & Pre-Calculus (Term 2)
10 <sup>th</sup> grade	Geom. or Hon. Geom. (Term 1) & Alg. 2 or Hon. Alg. 2 (Term2)
9 <sup>th</sup> grade	Algebra 1 or Algebra 1A/1B

I am available to help you. It's easiest to reach me by e-mail at [macphersonl@wcschools.com](mailto:macphersonl@wcschools.com). My phone number is 453-4600, ext. 3012. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions. I look forward to meeting you and working with your student.

*Lindsay Macpherson*

Freshmen Counselor

## APPROVED PROGRAM OF STUDY/GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Effective with the incoming Freshman class of 2009-10, all students must earn 28 credits and meet all requirements listed below to graduate. There is **one** graduation path for all students as they pursue a program of study preparing them postsecondary study or the workforce and lifelong learning.

COURSES	CREDITS	REQUIREMENTS
English	4	English 1, 2, 3, and 4
Math	4	Algebra1*, Geometry *, Algebra 2 and a 4 <sup>th</sup> math class – Students MUST take a math class <b>every year</b> . The 4 <sup>th</sup> math class will be determined by the student's ACT.
Science	3	Biology 1 Chemistry OR Physics* A 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lab Science
Social Studies	4	World Geography or World History United States History United States Government* Economics*
Personal Finance	1	
Lifetime Wellness	1	
Physical Education	1	
Fine Arts	1	
Foreign Language	2 in the same language	
Elective Focus	3	
Other Electives	4	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	

\* There may be approved substitutions for these courses. See course descriptions.

\*\* All 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the ACT in April. Students scoring below a 19 on the math component will be placed in a Bridge Math class.

### WHAT IS AN ELECTIVE FOCUS?

An Elective Focus is a focused program of study. Three (3) credits must be earned in one of the programs of study. These 3 credits are in addition to the required credits of graduation.

### The Elective Focus areas are:

1. Math/Science  
This includes any Math or Science class above and beyond the seven (7) required Math and Science courses for graduation. A student must earn a minimum of ten (10) credits in Math/Science to have a Math/Science Elective Focus.
2. Humanities  
This includes any Social Studies, English, or Foreign language class above and beyond the ten (10) required courses for graduation. A student must earn a minimum of thirteen (13) credits in Humanities to have a Humanities Elective Focus.
3. Fine Arts  
This includes any music, band, chorus, theatre, art, dance class above and beyond the one (1) credit required for graduation. A student must earn a minimum of four (4) credits in Fine Arts to have a Fine Arts Elective Focus.
4. JROTC  
This includes JROTC courses above and beyond those used as approved substitutions. To earn an Elective Focus in JROTC, a student must complete JROTC 1 – 6 at a minimum.
5. CTE (Career Technical Education)  
Please refer to the Career Clusters as detailed in the course descriptions and following this table.

ELECTIVE FOCUS	COURSE INCLUDE	REQUIRED CREDITS FOR GRADUATION	REQUIRED CREDITS FOR GRADUATION + ELECTIVE FOCUS
MATH/SCIENCE	Math	4	
	Science	3	The required 7 plus 3
		Total of 7	Total of 10
HUMANITIES	Social Studies	4	
	Foreign Languages	2	The required 10 plus 3
	English	4	Total of 13
		Total of 10	
FINE ARTS	Music		
	Band	1	The required 1 plus 3
	Dance	Any Fine Arts Course	Total 4
	Art		
	Chorus		
JROTC	JROTC		JROCT 1 - 6
CTE	Career Clusters		

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION CLUSTERS FOR WILSON COUNTY SCHOOLS 2009-2010

AGRICULTURE - CLUSTERS INCLUDE:	HEALTH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - CLUSTERS INCLUDE:
General Agriculture	Biotechnology Research and Development
Horticulture	Diagnostic Services
Animal Science	Health Informatics
Agriculture Mechanics	Support Services
BUSINESS - CLUSTERS INCLUDE:	MARKETING - CLUSTERS INCLUDE:
Finance	Hospitality and Tourism
Banking and Finance	Marketing
Business, Management, and Administration	Business Ownership/Entrepreneurship
Human Resources	
Information Technology	
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE - CLUSTER INCLUDE:	TRADES & INDUSTRY - CLUSTERS INCLUDE:
Teaching Training Services	Carpentry
Fashion Design	Cabinet Making
Interior Design	Drafting
Consumer Services	Criminal Justice
Counseling and Mental Health Services	Culinary Arts
Family and Community Services	Electronics
Nutrition	Media
Early Childhood Development and Services	Automotive Mechanics

## IMPORTANT DATES/INFORMATION

Monday, January 26, 2009 ..... Wilson Central Open House, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Wildcat Welcome Camp – Students sign up for one of four sessions offered.

June 15/16 ..... Wildcat Welcome Camp – 8<sup>th</sup> grade transition program  
9:00 a.m. to Noon or 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

July 20/21 ..... Wildcat Welcome Camp – 8<sup>th</sup> grade transition program  
9:00 a.m. to Noon or 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

July 29 ..... Abbreviated Day (2 hours) 8:15 – 10:15 a.m.

August ..... 1<sup>st</sup> full student day

Check the school website: [www.wcschools.com](http://www.wcschools.com) for information regarding:

- School Calendar
- Dress Code
- Parent/Teacher Conference Dates
- Attendance Policy
- Bus Routes
- Board Policies

Visiting [www.wcschools.com/wch](http://www.wcschools.com/wch) will take you directly to Wilson Central's website for information regarding the following:

- Report Card Dates
- Information for all grade levels
- Teacher Web Pages
- Guidance Web Page

Teachers welcome communication, and e-mail is the easiest and quickest way. To reach a teacher, type in the teacher's last name, followed by the first [initial@wcschools.com](mailto:initial@wcschools.com). For example: Lindsay Macpherson is [macphersonl@wcschools.com](mailto:macphersonl@wcschools.com). Many of the teachers have links to their web pages and email on the school web site.

Student athletes whose goal is college athletics should be sure to check NCAA clearinghouse requirements at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)