

High School Terms

Block schedule—The daily schedule that is used by all traditional WCPSS high schools consisting of four 90-minute periods per day. Students take four courses from August to mid-January, and four different courses from January-June. Each block will have a combination of required and elective courses. Students do not get to choose when they take classes.

Early Graduation—Graduating in 3 ½ years is a possibility if a student has met the requirements of his/her Course of Study. There are pros and cons to early graduation.

Course of Study—One of 3 sets of specific classes a student chooses to meet graduation requirements. Students are encouraged to follow either the College-University Course of Study or the College-Tech Prep Course of Study which will allow more options for post-graduation educational opportunities. The selection of a Course of Study can be changed, but the requirements of the new selection must be met.

Credit—One unit of credit is earned by successfully completing a high school course. Twenty-six credits are needed to graduate from traditional high schools.

Quality points—The number of points earned for each credit, based on the grade earned. In regular, academic level courses, and “A” receives 4 points, a “B” receives 3 points, a “C” receives 2 points, and a “D” receives 1 point. Advanced/Honors classes earn 1 additional quality point for each grade. Advanced Placement courses earn 2 additional points for each grade.

GPA—Grade Point Average—the total number of quality points earned divided by the number of courses taken. Cumulative GPA includes all courses taken beginning with Grade 9.

Honors course—also called advanced—A more rigorous level of a course than regular (academic), indicated by (H) after the course title.

AP course—Advanced Placement— A college level course that is more rigorous than an Honors course. Students are usually not eligible to take AP courses until Grade 11. Students must take an AP exam for these courses. Colleges accept the courses for credit based on their specific guidelines.

Pathway course—an elective course from a specific group of elective courses, i.e., arts or Career/Technical Education. College/Tech Prep and Career Prep courses of study require the selection and completion of a Pathway. (Refer to Program Planning Guide.)