

NORTHSTAR JUNIOR HIGH

Fall Semester 2009 Courses

Minimum Graduation Requirements

This chart shows how many credits a student needs to earn to graduate from Northstar Junior High. Successful completion of a class gives .5 credit. Seventh graders have three years to earn 18.00 credits. Students who enter the school as eighth graders need to earn 12.00 credits during their two years at the school. A student entering Northstar as a ninth grader should earn 6.00 credits. Graduation from Northstar means that the student has completed all requirements. Ceremonies, certificates, and honors will accompany this achievement. Students attending Northstar who do not complete all requirements will still be able to move on to high school but will enter with credit deficits.

Total credits required for graduation if you enter Northstar as a:

	7th Grader	8th Grader	9th Grader
English	3.00	2.00	1.00
Social Studies *	3.00 Incl. 1.0 cr. in US/WA History	2.00 Incl. 1.0 cr. in US/WA History	1.00 Incl. 1.0 cr. in US/WA History
Math	3.00	2.00	1.00
Science **	3.00	2.00	1.00
Art	1.50	1.00	.50
P.E.	1.50	1.00	.50
Electives	3.00	2.00	1.00



Community Service – 30 (actual) hours per year – earns .5 credits

***1.0** Credit in US History / WA State History is **REQUIRED** for graduation

** Must earn a minimum of .50 credits in each of the following subject areas: Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science.

Honors Science Requirements (3.0 credits)

- ❖ Health or Anatomy & Physiology
- ❖ Genetics offered Spring 2010
- ❖ A second life science course
- ❖ A chemistry based course, such as Environmental Science or What's the Matter
- ❖ Cumulative average of 90% in all science classes

This program is targeted toward the highly motivated science student. Graduating with Honors in Science allows students to bypass the 10th grade biology requirement in most of the LWSD high schools, freeing the schedule for more advanced coursework.

Northstar Community Service Guidelines

Each student at Northstar is required to perform thirty (30) hours of community service per year (June to June). The best community service projects are those which benefit both the student and the community.

The student benefits from community service by:

- broadening his/her life experience by exposure to the needs of others;
- having the opportunity to interact with others in a workplace-like environment;
- building his/her self confidence;
- beginning a habit of volunteerism and good citizenship.



The community benefits from students' community service by:

- getting projects done which may have been deferred, or not done at all, due to lack of funds and people-power;
- saving money for community service agencies;
- freeing up skilled workers at those agencies;
- better quality of life for all of its residents.



Community service is defined as follows:

1. Service should be for a non-profit agency. Churches are excluded, unless student is working for a non-church, non-profit agency under a project organized by a church.
2. Student may not be compensated financially for service, nor should this be part of a program of study such as a sport, music, drama, or dance. (However, you may be able to get "independent credit" for this – see your support group teacher.)
3. Student's work may augment that of paid staff but should not replace a paid worker.
4. Service projects outside these guidelines require prior approval of the student's Support Group teacher.
5. Community Service performed over the summer is applied to the next school year, except for incoming seventh graders, unless special arrangements have been made with the student's Support Group teacher.
6. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of his/her service hours. Community Service contracts will be provided for that purpose and should be turned in at the end of each semester. It is the student's responsibility to get the signature of the appropriate supervising adult for each community service activity.
7. It is the responsibility of the Northstar Community Service Coordinator, a parent volunteer, to make community service opportunities known to students and their parents.

ALL PERIODS

ALL STAFF

Teacher/Office Assistant (TAs) (Elective)

All Periods & All Staff

Teacher and office assistants serve an important role at Northstar. T.A.'s help correct work, set up class displays and bulletin boards, do record-keeping, and assist in a myriad of ways. The role provides real work experience and responsibilities plus a chance to get a behind the scenes understanding of the school. This can be valuable experience and provides a much needed service to the teachers and the school. A student interested in this position should be conscientious, responsible, and able to work this into his or her schedule. Teacher assistant positions are available throughout the day and need to be arranged through individual staff members. (**Note:** Connie needs an office assistant any period.)

1st PERIOD

Discovering Geometry (Math)

Erica

Discovering Geometry provides an opportunity for students to explore geometric relationships with a wide variety of tools, including compasses, computers, and graphing calculators. Students perform constructions, measure figures, observe patterns, discuss their findings, write their own definitions, and formulate and prove geometric conjectures. Topics include properties of triangles, polygons, and circles, transformations and tessellations, area and volume, the Pythagorean Theorem, congruence and similarity. Pre-requisite: successful completion of Algebra.

Pre-Algebra (7th CMP2) (Math)

Janet

This course covers the topics listed below. Students learn to recognize and generalize patterns and relationships and apply this knowledge to increasingly more difficult problems. Units will cover:

- An Introduction to Algebra: variables, tables, graphs and symbols as representations
- Similarity: similar figures with congruence as a special case
- Proportional Reasoning: rate, ratio, proportion, and percent
- 3-D Measurement: surface area and volume
- Integers: operations with positive and negative numbers
- Linear Relationships: expressed in words, tables, graphs and equations
- Probability: expected value.

Note: Prefer students to have a separate 1 inch binder for this class and a spiral bound notebook for daily assignments. Students will need a basic calculator for this class, a pencil pouch and dividers.

Bring Out Your Dead (A History of Infectious Diseases) (Social Studies)

Bob

This is a class to die for! Given the recent fear surrounding swine flu, concerns about deadly diseases have been in the news lately, but diseases have a long and fascinating history. In fact, many scientists believe bacteria and viruses were the earliest life forms. These microbes have been present in and on humans since the dawn of man and thus have been part of human history – and in many cases they have changed the course of history. “Bring Out Your Dead” will trace the impact disease has played in the history of the world and conclude with a look at the prospects for the future – including the dangers of epidemics and bioterrorism.

[Skills addressed include: The Reading & Writing Process, Reading Historical Fiction, Short Stories & Plays, Reading & Writing Essays (incl. expository, reflective and persuasive), Informational Reading, Reading Graphs/Charts/Tables/Maps, and skills associated with Speeches and Presentations.]

2nd PERIOD

Music Journal (English)

Vincent

This course examines the history of rock & roll. During the semester, we will study a variety of classic bands including, The Beatles, The Who, Jami Hendrix and Jefferson Airplane. We will also listen to contemporary artists such as Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Radiohead and The Shins. Besides studying bands, students will learn about the many genres and movements that make up rock music, including punk, progressive, new wave and grunge. Your final project will be to create your own music magazine.

Though this class revolves around music, the course focuses heavily on persuasive and expository writing.

Writing: Persuasive, Expository

Reading: Essays, Articles

Technology: Word, Internet, Gomyaccess, Turnitin.com, Publisher

*** Note to parents: Most of the songs and videos we will be listening to/watching are currently played on the radio, MTV, VH1 or can easily be found on YouTube. However, due to the nature of the material, there are times that the music may address mature themes and/or use adult language. In addition, because we will be periodically watching recordings of live concerts, there may be times that inappropriate language is used or adult images are shown.**

Algebra I (8th CMP2) (Math)

Janet

This course covers the topics listed below. Students continue to grow in their knowledge of mathematics using the strategies and concepts learned in the previous two years. Units will cover:

- Functions: an introduction to modeling with linear and other functions
- Pythagorean Theorem: right triangles, slope, area and irrational numbers
- Exponential Growth: graphing and writing exponential functions
- Quadratic Growth: graphing, writing and solving quadratic functions
- Symbolic Expressions: simplifying expressions and solving more complicated linear equations
- Transformational Geometry: symmetries and their relationship to algebraic properties
- Statistics: gathering data from samples to make predictions about populations

Note: Prefer students to have a separate 1 inch binder for this class and a spiral bound notebook for daily assignments. Students will be loaned a graphing calculator to use for the year, but students can provide their own if they prefer. In addition students will need a pencil pouch and dividers.

Pre-requisite: successful completion of Pre-Algebra or passing score on Algebra Placement Test.

Genocide & The History Of Intolerance (Social Studies)

Bob

Beginning with a look at the history of prejudice, the course will focus primarily on the Nazi-instituted Holocaust. It will also take a look at the more recent acts of genocide in Cambodia, Bosnia & Rwanda. The course will also address what can be done to promote tolerance and human rights in our own society and throughout the world. Students must have the maturity to handle this subject matter as well as good reading and writing skills.

[Skills addressed include: The Reading & Writing Process, Reading Historical Fiction, Short Stories & Plays, Reading & Writing Essays (incl. expository, reflective and persuasive), Informational Reading, Reading Graphs/Charts/Tables/Maps, and skills associated with Speeches and Presentations.]

3rd PERIOD

What's the Matter (Physical Science)

Erica

This course is a prerequisite to many future science courses. Students who have not had a physical science course are highly recommended to enroll.

This course explores the fundamental properties of matter. Students will identify, categorize, describe, and sort substances using physical and/or chemical properties. Students will describe the properties of electrons, protons, and neutrons and explain the behavior of a substance based upon the substance's atomic structure, physical properties and chemical properties. Students will study SAFE and edible chemical reactions!

Creative Writing Workshop (Honors) (English)

Vincent

In this class, students will analyze and create short stories, poetry, lyrics, plays and some non-fiction pieces. We will also study story design, archetypes, writing dialogue and screenwriting. If you are interested in creative writing or have ever wondered what makes a great story, this class is for you.

Students are expected to share their writing with the class. The final project will be to create a class-wide creative writing magazine.

Writing: Creative

Reading: Short Stories, Essays & Poems

Technology: Word, Internet, Gomyaccess, Turnitin.com

"47 States & The Soviet Of Washington"

Part One (U.S. History & Washington State History) (Social Studies)

Bob

Note: Students who have not taken Pacific Rim must take this year-long course by 9th grade.

This course will explore the history of the United States from shortly before the Revolution through the Civil War. We'll have a "bloody good time" looking at the events (such as the wars) that have shaped this nation's history. We will have a special focus on the national and state constitutions and learn how they impact important issues in the nation today. Films, novels, historical texts and activities will enrich your learning! (BTW: The title of the class comes from a toast made by the U.S. postmaster general in the mid-1930's. Stay tuned for Part Two (next semester) when you will learn why!) A state required CBA (Classroom Based Assessment) will take place in the form of a research paper on a Constitutional issue.

[Skills addressed include: The Reading & Writing Process, Reading Historical Fiction, Biographies, Short Stories & Plays, Reading & Writing Essays (incl. expository, reflective and persuasive), Informational Reading, Reading Graphs/Charts/Tables/Maps, and skills associated with Speeches and Presentations.]

4th PERIOD

Geology (Earth Science)

Erica

Highly recommended for 9th grade without earth science.

Find out what our dynamic planet is made of and how it works! Learn how the chemical composition of Earth materials relates to physical properties. Analyze processes that continually change the features of Earth's surface. Identify and describe sources of Earth's internal and external energy.

Treehouse of Horror (English)

Vincent

I have ventured deep into the Northstar crypt to find some of the most famous (and infamous) horror stories ever penned. This class focuses on the horror genre; we will read both classic and contemporary works including novels, short stories and poems. We will also examine the components of the genre and try to define what makes something scary. Enter at your own risk!

Writing: Persuasive, Expository & Creative

Reading: Essays, Articles

Technology: Word, Internet, Gomyaccess, Turnitin.com, Publisher

Modern Art (Art)

Janet

In this class, students will explore the work of Modern artists since the time of the Impressionists as well as study the design elements and principles that these artists used to create their work. Students will create a variety of projects inspired by these artists that include drawing, painting, and sculpture.

5th PERIOD

Herpetology (Life Science)

Erica

Herpetology is the study of reptiles and amphibians. Students will study the structure and organization of body systems within several native families. Emphasis will be placed on the ecology of reptiles and amphibians in the northwest and worldwide.

P.E. (P.E.)

Vincent

My goal for P.E. is for students to enjoy themselves while actively playing different games, sports and activities. We will be dividing our time between Northstar and Lake Washington, and depending upon the high school's schedule, we may have access to their gym, track or other facilities. To earn credit, students must participate in all activities. This means being active, engaged and well-behaved. In efforts to develop leadership skills, students will also be expected to lead the class in one activity.

Point, Click & Shoot / Yearbook (Art)

Janet

The class will introduce students to the basics of digital photography and will be an opportunity to work on the Northstar yearbook. Students will learn about the elements of taking great photographs as well as learn the basics of using the Adobe Photoshop program. Having your own camera is not required (though helpful), but buying a memory card and flash drive to store class work will be essential.

6th PERIOD

Support Group (Elective)

Bob, Erica, Janet, Vincent

This is a required class for all students and is the core of the program. In Support Group students develop social skills such as cooperation, assertiveness and the ability to articulate a point of view. Decisions are often done by consensus, teaching students the need to compromise while respecting the individual (as one dissenting vote prevents consensus). Students remain in the same Support Group each semester, giving the teacher and students the opportunity to know each other well. Yearly themes are addressed through a variety of curricula. In addition, Support Group is a forum for student input, and a place to voice concerns, develop friendships, and even have fun.

Other skills taught to mastery include the following:

Writing – book reports that not only recount, but analyze and evaluate (persuasive writing), plus business letter writing.

Reading – the reading process, 6 traits of an effective reader, reading for entertainment &/or enlightening information, reading & understanding procedures/instructions, plus reading self-selected age-appropriate novels, short story collections, and non-fiction books.