

# Voorhees High School

## Course Selection and Registration

# Basic Documents

Registration Form

Academic Assessment Form

Course Request Form

# Requirements

## Graduation Requirements

- Need at least 120 credits to graduate
- Must take at least 36 credits freshman year
- Can take up to 41 credits per year



# In Order to Graduate...

## Students Need To Take

- English – 4 years
- Physical Education and Health – 4 years
- Math – 3 years
- Social Studies – 3 years
- Science – 3 years
- Fine Arts – 2 semesters
- Practical Arts – 2 semesters
- Communication and Digital Literacy– 1 semester (taken in 9<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Financial Literacy – 1 semester (taken in 9<sup>th</sup> grade)
- World Language – 1 year required, 2+ recommended

# CREDITS

- Full year classes are now worth 5 credits, except for science which is 6 credits
  - This includes all academic classes, and a few electives such as band or chorus
- All half year, or semester long classes are worth 2.5 credits
  - This includes some required courses (Academic Literacy, Financial Literacy, Health, Phys Ed) and most electives

# Freshmen Must Take

- English - 1 year (5 credits)
- Math - 1 year (5 credits)
- Biology – 1 year (6 credits)
- American History – 1 year (5 credits)
- Health – 1 semester (2.5 credits)
- Phys Ed – 1 semester (2.5 credits)
- Communication and Digital Lit – 1 semester (2.5 credits)
- Financial Literacy - 1 semester (2.5 credits)
- Lunch - no credits
  
- Almost All Freshmen also take
  - a World Language – 1 year (5 credits)
  - Electives - up to 2 semesters (2.5 or 5 credits)



# CREDITS

- 41 credits = 8 classes per semester (no study halls)
- 38.5 credits = 7 classes one semester, and 8 classes the other semester (one elective and one semester long study hall)
- 36 credits = 7 classes per semester (year long study hall, no electives)

# DAILY SCHEDULE

- Voorhees has done away with “mods”, and will now be utilizing a “Rolling Drop Schedule”
- There are 8 classes that can be scheduled, 4 in the morning and 4 in the afternoon
- There will be 3 actual class periods each morning and afternoon, each 55 minutes long
- Every subject will meet 3 of the 4 days, with the order rotating



# DAILY SCHEDULE

- Between morning and afternoon classes there will be a 50 minute period of time
- This will include lunch for all students
- If science class backs up to this time, there will be a 20 minute class extension for lab
- On other days, this extra time can function as a study hall/free period

# The Daily Schedule

55 Minute Period Daily Schedule Rolling Block with Split Lunch & Lab		
1	7:45	8:40
2	8:44	9:39
3	9:43	10:38
Lunch 1/NHV Block 1/ Lab	10:40	11:04
Lunch 2/NHV Block 2/ Lab	11:06	11:30
4	11:32	12:27
5	12:31	1:26
6	1:30	2:25

Schedule Rotation			
Day A	Day B	Day C	Day D
1	4	3	2
2	1	4	3
3	2	1	4
Lunch/Science Labs/NHV Block			
5	8	7	6
6	5	8	7
7	6	5	8
C+I	C+I	C+I	C+I



# Sample Student Schedule

PERIOD	DAY A	DAY B	DAY C	DAY D
1	SCIENCE	HISTORY	MATH	ART ELECTIVE
2	ART ELECTIVE	SCIENCE	HISTORY	MATH
3	MATH	ART ELECTIVE	SCIENCE	HISTORY
L1	STUDY	STUDY	SCIENCE LAB	STUDY
L2	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
4	WORLD LANGUAGE	PE	ENGLISH	FINANCIAL LITERACY
5	FINANCIAL LITERACY	WORLD LANGUAGE	PE	ENGLISH
6	ENGLISH	FINANCIAL LITERACY	WORLD LANGUAGE	PE
C+I	MUSIC ENSEMBLE		MUSIC ENSEMBLE	

# The Benefits

- Increased time in class will allow teachers to go deeper into topics; also less class changes.
- Students who depart early for extra-curricular activities will not continually miss the same class due to the rotation schedule.
- Class time is increased by 225 minutes during the school year.
- Common lunch periods will allow students to meet with available staff. We will still have department resource centers during the school day as well as curriculum and instruction time after school from 2:30-3:10pm.
- New schedule does not reduce student academic opportunities.

# Other Things to Know

- There will be two lunch sections
- There will still be department resource centers
- There will still be Curriculum and Instruction time from 2:30 to 3:10
- Band and Chorus will rotate
- Afterschool ensembles will remain the same
- Science classes will be extended for a lab period when the classes back up to a lunch period



# Communication and Digital Literacy

- A required 2.5 credit class (one semester)
- Taken Freshman Year, either semester
- Focuses on developing solutions to real problems and on developing technology and communication skills
- Students will use the Naviance Program to develop Individual Learning Plans (determine learning styles, personality inventory, resume development, etc.)

# Communication and Digital Literacy

- Students have the option of taking

- 1) CDL Through Humanities (#216)

Or

- 2) CDL through Science and Engineering (#499)

# Financial Literacy Is

- A required, one semester class
- Offered through the Business Department
- Now taken in 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Covers topics related to personal finance and money management
- Utilizes career search engines and tools to help students with career exploration and future planning



# Electives

- Before graduation, students need to take 2 semesters each in
  - Fine Arts
    - Music and Performing Arts
    - Visual Arts
  - Practical Arts
    - Business
    - Family and Consumer Science
    - Technology Education
    - Math

# In Freshman Year...

- Freshmen have 2 semesters or 5 credits for electives (chosen from Fine or Practical arts)
- Most electives are one semester classes (2.5 credits). A few electives (band and chorus) are two semester classes (5.0 credits)

# Fine Arts Available in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Art

Color and Design I & II

Ceramics I & II

Drawing I & II

Painting I & II

Photography I & II

Video Production I & II

## Music and Performing Arts

Music Theory

History of Rock and Roll

Electronic Music I & II

Freshman Band (5 cr)

Freshman Choir - girls (5 cr)

Concert Choir – boys (5 cr)

String Ensemble (5 cr)

Jazz Ensemble (audition)

Beginning Guitar I & II

Piano/Voice/Instrumental  
lessons (1 cr)



# Practical Arts Available in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Family and Consumer Science

- ❑ Fashion Design and Merchandising
- ❑ Sewing for Fashion I & II
- ❑ Interior Design
- ❑ Early Childhood Education
- ❑ Pre-School Education

## Business

- ❑ Intro to Business
- ❑ Computer Applications I & II
- ❑ Business Sports Management

## Technology

- ❑ Drafting and Design
- ❑ Arch. Drafting and Design
- ❑ Engineering Drawing/CAD I
- ❑ Graphic Communication I & II
- ❑ Robotics and Automation
- ❑ Webpage Design I& II
- ❑ Landscape Design

## Math

- ❑ Intro to Computer Programing (should be in geometry)
- ❑ Computer Basics through Gaming

# Electives

- Many electives are only available to upperclassmen.
- Look through the Course Selection Guide and think about what courses you would like to take later on. Some of these have prerequisites, that you should try to take Freshman year.
- If you have a career interest, take electives in that area (ex – art, business or engineering).

# Study Hall

Taking a Study Hall eliminates  
electives



# Should I take a study hall?

Some say "yes", some say "no"

## Things to Consider

- Am I disciplined enough to get work done if others around me are socializing? If the answer is "not really", then skip study hall and consider taking an elective with no homework instead (such as an art, technology or food class).
- Do I plan on taking a lot of AP science classes later? If "yes", then these classes eliminate many elective opportunities. You may be challenged to meet your requirements before graduation. You will also find Junior and Senior year more challenging and may want to hold off and leave some time open for a study hall those years.
- Am I pushing my limits academically, with a lot of extra curricular activities? If "yes", then a study hall may be a good thing.



# Course Levels – Academic Subjects

- College Prep (formerly known as “Core” or “General”)
- Advanced (formerly known as College Preparatory or CP)
- Honors/Weighted (H/Wt)

Note – AP Classes are no longer available to Freshmen

# Honors

For Students with VERY STRONG academic records

- An "A" student, who gets A's and B's on tests
- Self motivated, with a strong work ethic
- An Independent Learner
  - Note taking and essay writing
  - Analyzing primary sources
  - Connecting themes and concepts
  - Participation
- Willing to do more homework
- Teacher recommendation required

# Advanced

(formerly known as College Prep)

- The most common courses taken freshman year
  - Should be a "B" or "C" student
  - Independent work/study habits (should be able to complete some projects independently, but might need some teacher prompting and support in other areas)
  - Can move through material quickly
  - Able to self-advocate
  - Teacher recommendation required



# College Prep

(formerly known as General or Core)

For students with weaker reading and writing skills, who need additional basic work and a slower pace, or who are not yet working independently.

- More direct support
- More remedial instruction
- Slower pace
- Less in depth curriculum
- Less homework - more work is done in class
- Smaller classes, usually with in-class support



# AP Classes

- Advanced Placement (AP) courses are no longer being offered to Freshman
- All AP classes (including science classes) are now 1 period long
- Students must take Honor's Science before they can take an AP Science

# Moving Up a Level

- Students can take Advanced or CP classes freshman year, and then move up to Honors or Advanced classes in most subject areas during sophomore year. This is encouraged and supported. This is more challenging, but not impossible, to do in Math.

# LANGUAGE ARTS PLACEMENT

- A Language Arts Common Assessment will be administered to all 8<sup>th</sup> graders by their 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers
- It will become part of a new placement matrix, which will also include grades and teacher recommendations



# Math Options for 9<sup>th</sup> Graders

- Algebra 1 (CP) with Supplemental Algebra 1 Lab
- Algebra 1 (CP)
- Algebra 1 (Advanced)
- Geometry (Advanced)
- Geometry (Honors)
- Algebra 2/Trigonometry (Honors)



# Math Curriculum

- The math curriculum has become more rigorous in recent years, since all students must now complete and be tested on two years of Algebra

# Math Placement

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class

- Mathematics

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

- Algebra 1

- Geometry

## Potential 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Class

- Algebra I (CP) with Supplemental Algebra 1 Lab

- Algebra 1 (College Prep)

- Algebra 1 (Advanced)

- Geometry (Advanced)

- Geometry (Honors)

- Algebra II/Trigonometry

# New Testing for Math Placement

- ALL students will now take the Scholastic Math Inventory (SMI), a computer based, adaptive test that goes up to Algebra II
- They will take it either two or three times, offering multiple data points if the student has an "off" day
- Performance on these tests can override teacher recommendation



“But I want to get to Calculus before I graduate.”

- Students taking Algebra in 9<sup>th</sup> grade may take Geometry and Algebra II concurrently during Sophomore year
- This eliminates elective options



# Science Changes

- **All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking Biology**
  - **The new course sequence will be biology, chemistry and physics.**
  - **AP science classes will require students to complete the first level of the course prior to taking the AP course.**
  - **The new typical AP science sequence could look like this:**
    - **9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Honors Biology**
    - **10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Honors Chemistry and AP Biology**
    - **11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Honors Physics and AP Chemistry**
    - **12<sup>th</sup> Grade: AP Physics and another science elective**

# Science Changes

- **All science classes will be 6 credits**
  - All science classes will include an additional lab period which will meet for 24 minutes over the lunch period when their science class is just prior to or just after the lunch period.
  - If students have a morning science class, they will have the science lab during the first lunch period and they will eat each day in the second lunch period.
  - If students have an afternoon science class, they will have the science lab during the second lunch period and they will eat each day in the first lunch period.

# World Languages

The state of NJ requires 1 year of a world language, but Voorhees recommends at least two years. Most better colleges require 3 to 4 consecutive years of a language. Students may also take additional languages as electives

Each course is a year-long, 5 credit course. The following language courses are offered to Freshmen:

- Spanish Foundations (CP)
- Spanish 1 (Advanced)
- Spanish 2 (Advanced)
- French 1
- German 1
- Latin 1

In rare situations, a student can test into a higher level class



# World Languages

- All Level 1 classes start at the very beginning.
- Most Tewksbury students will be prepared to go into Spanish 2. If they follow the Spanish progression, they can reach AP Spanish before graduating. These students must have a teacher recommendation.
- Foundations of Spanish is a CP level class that is more culturally based. Upon completion of, students choosing to continue with a language would go into Spanish 1, which is an Advanced level classes.
- Voorhees is exploring allowing students taking German 4 to receive college credit from Seton Hall University.
- 
- Students with IEP's may choose to defer their language requirement to a later time.

# Who Takes Honors Courses (no, it's not "everyone")

- In recent years, on average, the following percentage of Tewksbury Students have registered for honors/advanced placement courses
  - Honors English - 40%
  - Honors Geometry or Algebra II/Trig – 30%
  - Advanced Geometry– 20 %
  - Honors History – 20%
  - Honors Physics – 28%
  - Spanish 2 – 40% (other students typically switch to a different language)

# How Many Honors Courses to Take?

- In recent years, on average, Tewksbury students taking...
  - 0 Honors courses = 40%
  - 1 Honors course = 17%
  - 2 Honors courses = 17%
  - 3 Honors courses = 12%
  - 4 Honors courses = 15%



# How Many Honors Courses to Take?

- Students should take the most challenging course of studies *at which they can realistically be successful.*
- Consider your child's overall motivation, aptitude and activity level. You want them to be appropriately challenged, but you don't want to set them up to fail or to be overwhelmed!

# Registering for Courses

- Late December
  - Students should download copies of the 2017-2018 Course Selection Guide
- January 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Students go to Voorhees to hear about their choices and tour the school
- January 5 - 15
  - Students fill out their Scheduling Contract and get all necessary signatures
- January 15
  - Scheduling contracts are due back to the OTS Guidance Office
- January 9 – January 26
  - Meetings with Voorhees Guidance Counselor

# Scheduling Contract – con't

- Teacher signatures are needed for all academic courses and for Spanish 2, but not for electives or Level 1 World Languages
- OTS Guidance Counselor signature is required
- Students are encouraged to have the OTS guidance counselor briefly review their scheduling contract for accuracy before bringing it to teachers for signatures



# Scheduling Contract

**Scheduling Contract must be completed in pen.  
No erasures, cross-outs or white-outs allowed  
without an OTS counselor override.**

Required Courses are on Top

Electives are in the second section (not to exceed 5 credits)

Required Courses + Electives = "Total Credits"

Alternate Elective Course Selections are on the third section. Do not include these in "Total Credits"

# Scheduling Contract – con't

Parent, student and teacher signatures are required before the Guidance Counselor will sign off on the contract



# Abbreviations

- CP – College Preparatory
- Adv - Advanced
- H – Honors
- Cr. – Credits
- wks. – Weeks (36 Wks = 1 year, 18 Wks = 1 Semester)
- Wt. – Weighted
- Pre - Prerequisites
- Sug. Pre – Suggested Prerequisites
- V – Voorhees Only
- N – North Only
- N/V – North and Voorhees



# Meeting with Voorhees Guidance Counselor

- While not mandatory, this is a great opportunity to begin to establish a relationship with the person who will probably be the student's guidance counselor for 4 years.
- These meetings will take place at the High School between January 9 and January 26. Some meetings are scheduled in the mornings, others in the afternoon.
- Call Voorhees High School (638-2130) to schedule an appointment with your Voorhees Guidance Counselor. Try to meet with the person who will be your Guidance Counselor
- Parents must pick up their child at OTS, and transport them to and from Voorhees.

# Changing Recommendations

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher recommendations for academic levels can change in either direction between January and June of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. However, if a class is full, a change request will not necessarily be honored.

# Changing Classes

- Students can request a change in classes/levels during the first two weeks of the school year. This may impact their electives.
- Students with a recommendation for a certain level from a teacher, who have shown effort, can drop down to a lower level without penalty later in the year, space permitting. This might impact their electives.



# Parent Overrides

- If a teacher does not recommend a student for an desired level, parents have the right to submit override paperwork to Voorhees and request that the student be placed in a level higher than the one recommended
- These overrides will not be considered by Voorhees until after July 1, and again are contingent upon there being space available in the class requested

# Parent Overrides

- Be very cautious and conservative when considering a Parent Override
- If the student drops down from the course level requested by the parent via a parent override, it may be noted on their transcript as a withdrawal/failure for that marking period

Dropping down a level looks  
bad to colleges and is stressful  
for students!

Please respect the  
recommendations from  
teachers!



# Polytech Programs

## TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS

- Taken in junior and senior years. Students take academic classes for part of the day and go to Polytech classes in Flemington for the other part of the day.
- Some are programs that lead directly to work (construction, automotives, cosmetology etc), others are geared to students going to college, but who have a career focus in mind (teaching, law enforcement, health sciences, commercial arts, etc).
- Polytech classes fulfill the Practical Arts requirements.

# Polytech

- *Students considering traditional Polytech programs must complete their fine arts electives during freshman and sophomore year.*

# Specialized Public Academies

- Competitive Application Process
- Receive college credits
- Curriculum developed by Project Lead the Way
- Administered by Hunterdon Polytech
- Transportation provided
- Application Deadline is December 15, 2016

## ■ *Computer Science and Software Engineering Program*

- All Classes (academic and academy) and extra-curricular activities at DeVal High school
- [http://www.hcvsd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=281554&type=d](http://www.hcvsd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=281554&type=d)

## ■ *Biomedical Sciences Academy*

- All Classes (academic and academy) and extra-curricular activities at North Hunterdon High school
- [http://www.hcvsd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=293551&type=d](http://www.hcvsd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=293551&type=d)



# Special Services

- Meetings with the high school child study team to develop a high school IEP will be scheduled by your child's current case manager, and take place at OTS.
- In Class Support is available at the college prep and advanced levels. Some very limited accommodations can be offered to students taking honors classes.
- Students with IEP's are encouraged to take Study Skills, a series of one semester courses offered through the Special Education department.

# Mandatory Testing

- Students are required to take the PARCC assessment their first three years. This is now a graduation requirement
- In order to graduate, students must score at a level 4 or 5 ( over 750) in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade ELA test and in Algebra 1
- Students who do not reach this level will only be considered for an alternate assessment if they test all three years

# What About Fun?

- Voorhees offers a wide array of extracurricular activities
- Encourage your child to sign up for these activities! They enrich the high school experience and offer opportunities to develop new skills
- Often this is where your son or daughter will find their “niche” and develop lasting friendships!
- Consider your child’s extracurricular load when choosing courses, and vice versa!



# “Curriculum and Instruction” Time

- Time is available between 2:30 and 3:10 for clubs, intramurals, library time, extra help, etc
- Most sports begin practice at 3:10, so students can join a club and still participate in sports
- There is a “late bus” that leaves school at 3:10 three days a week

# Sports

- 3 seasons of sports are offered
  - FALL: soccer, cross country, girls tennis, football, field hockey, volley ball, cheerleading (cheer and competitive)
  - WINTER: basketball, fencing, swimming, winter track, wrestling, cheerleading (cheer and competitive)
  - SPRING: lacrosse, track and field, golf, boys tennis, baseball and softball
- Voorhees coaches will come to OTS in the spring to talk with students about fall sports options

# Intramural Sports

- Available after school to all students
- They are well attended, and include: ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, basketball, ping-pong, floor hockey, badminton and fitness training



# Unified Sports

- A program being developed to provide team sports opportunities for special needs students with typically developing student who do not want to participate in interscholastic sports
- More information will be forthcoming from the Phys Ed department

# CLUBS

- Dozens of Clubs and Associations are offered at Voorhees, including drama, ski club, a video game club, marching band, newspaper, etc. Some are quite involved and require a serious commitment, others are more relaxed.
- New clubs can be started if there is student interest and a faculty advisor.
- See the website for more information

# Attendance Policy

- Students are allowed 12 unexcused absences for a full year course, and 6 unexcused absences for a half year course
- 3 tardies = 1 unexcused absence
- Students going over will lose credit for the course, and will need to complete a credit restoration program in the summer (12 hours for a half year course and 24 hours for a full year course). Only 2 classes can be restored per summer.



# FINAL NOTES

Practice for fall sports begin in mid-August  
Sports physicals are due in early August

School begins in late August

All students need to submit a current physical,  
including immunization records, before  
beginning school

# For More Information

Visit the Voorhees High School Website at

<http://nhvweb.net/VHS>

*"It's A Great Day To Be  
A Vike!"*

**ENJOY YOUR VOORHEES  
EXPERIENCE!**