

# Wisdom High School

2009-2010

## PROGRAM OF STUDY HANDBOOK

**"Chart your course and choose your destiny"**

### Statement of Intent

It is the intent of MSAD #33 to pursue policies of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity in all of its departments, programs, and activities. To this end, MSAD #33 has taken affirmative action to insure that all applications receive fair consideration for employment and that employees are treated fairly during employment. Such affirmative action applies to, but is not limited to employment, appointment, selection, upgrading, demotion, transfer, recruitment, advertisement, lay-off, termination, rates of pay and fringe benefits of other forms of compensation, and selection for training or academic leave. MSAD #33 has also established procedures to ensure that the effects of any action upon students, parents, citizens, local educational authorities, schools, libraries, towns and other organizations and persons are nondiscriminatory.

### Policy Statement

It is the policy of MSAD #33 to ensure equal employment/educational opportunities (affirmative action) regardless of race, sex, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, or handicap in accordance with all federal and state legislation relative to discrimination. Inquiries and grievances can be made to Tammy LeBlanc, Affirmative Action/Title IX/Section 504 coordinator, at 543-7717, or to the Affirmative Office, State Department of Education, and Augusta, Maine, 04330. The MSAD #33 policies that reflect on Affirmative Action/Title IX/Section 504 can be found in the Principal's Office.

### To The Parents

If you would like a French translation of this Program of Study Handbook, please contact the principal or Director of Guidance at 543-7717 at Wisdom Middle/High School to make arrangements for a translation.

### Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Parents of students under 18 years of age attending any school have the right to inspect and review any and all official records, including all material that is incorporated into each student's cumulative record folder, and intended for school use or to be available to parties outside the school or school system, and specifically including, but not necessarily limited to, identifying data, academic work completed, level of achievement (grades, standardized test scores, etc.) attendance data, aptitude and psychological tests, interest inventory results, health data, family background information, teacher or counselor ratings and observations, and verified reports of serious and recurrent behavior patterns.

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

*This Program of Study Handbook includes graduation requirements, our course change policy, and various programs of study and course descriptions. As you develop your personal program of studies keep in mind credits needed to graduate are mandatory by the state board of education as well as by our local school board. Just like the cover indicates, there are many directions to head and only you will know the right one.*

*As a school, our business is not to limit educational opportunities. Our goal is to offer you the most up-to-date and applicable courses that we can possibly offer. We want you to gain the skills necessary to move on to your post secondary school and the job market with varied and applicable coursework. I encourage you to study this handbook very carefully before selecting a program. Discuss this information with your parents and teachers and the Director of Guidance. Be sure to have all questions answered prior to selecting a program. By doing so, your chance of a successful high school experience will significantly increase.*

*Again, I stress that your choice of courses should enable you to get into the very best colleges, universities, tech schools, or work fields you desire upon graduation. What you must avoid is a sudden realization that you might not be adequately prepared for your future course of study. Plan well to improve your chances of success! -Ms. LeBlanc*

## FACTORS FOR CHOOSING A PROGRAM OF STUDY

- 1. What are your strengths and/or weaknesses as indicated by achievement, intelligence, and aptitude tests as well as interest inventories? What is your passion?*
- 2. In classes you have already taken, for which subjects have you received the highest grades?*
- 3. What type of adult employment might you enjoy?*
- 4. Does this type of employment require education beyond high school?*
- 5. If formal education is a priority beyond high school, which subjects should you consider taking to build an adequate foundation for a particular field of study?*
- 6. If formal education is not a priority beyond high school, what program of study would be most valuable in preparing you to live and work on your own?*
- 7. If your plans include joining a branch of the Armed Services after high school, getting accepted is no longer automatic. The Military not only requires earning a diploma. Certain levels of basic language and math skills are prerequisite. Minimum test scores for admittance have risen significantly in the last few years.*

Remember that choosing a program of study requires serious consideration. A course should never be selected on a whim or just because a friend is taking the class. Courses must be chosen on the basis of sound information and careful thought.

## PROCEDURE FOR COURSE CHANGE

Students will not be permitted to make any course changes after the first two weeks of the new school year unless special circumstances exist. Students may only add or withdraw from courses pending signatures of all parties. Should there be any disagreement; a meeting with all parties must be arranged. If approval is granted, the official transcript will indicate a withdrawal (WD).

### SCHOOL PROMOTION

Students are promoted from one grade to the next according to the number of credits earned at the end of each academic year. A student must have earned (6) credits to be classified as a sophomore, (12) credits to be classified as a junior and (18) credits to be classified as a senior.

### CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

In order to graduate from Wisdom High School after 2009, a student must have acquired the following credits:

<u>Academic Subject</u>	<u>Number of Credits</u>
English	4
Social Studies	4 (1-U.S. History)
Mathematics	4
Science	4
Health	1
Fine Arts	1
Physical Education	1
Foreign Language	1 (*most colleges require 2)

25 credits are required to graduate

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF POST-SECONDARY SCHOOLS

All post-secondary institutions have individual entrance requirements which may exceed the state minimum. For specific entrance requirements at any school of higher education, you should consult with the Director of Guidance.

### STUDENT PROGRAMS

The master schedule is designed to meet the needs of as many students as possible. Conflicts can develop, and it may be necessary to postpone scheduling a course. If a student wishes to take a course which does not seem to fit into a particular program, s/he should consult with the guidance counselor. We will remain as flexible as possible in scheduling, and we will attempt to meet each student=s individual needs.

**WISDOM MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL  
Four-Year Plan**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>
1. ___ English I 2. ___ World Geography 3. ___ Algebra I / Geometry 4. ___ Physical Science 5. ___ French 6. ___ Physical Education 7. ___ Fine Arts ___ Elective ___ TOTAL CREDITS	1. ___ English II 2. ___ World History 3. ___ Geometry / Algebra II 4. ___ Biology 5. ___ French II 6. ___ Health 7. ___ Fine Arts ___ Elective ___ TOTAL CREDITS
<b>Grade 11</b>	<b>Grade 12</b>
1. ___ English III / Adv. Eng III 2. ___ US History 3. ___ Algebra II / Pre Cal 4. ___ Chemistry w/Lab 5. ___ Tech 6. ___ Elective 7. ___ Elective 8. ___ Elective ___ TOTAL CREDITS GRADE 11	1. ___ English IV / Adv. Eng IV 2. ___ Social Studies Elective 3. ___ Precal/ Calc/ Business Math/Senior Math 4. ___ Science Elective 5. ___ Tech 6. ___ Elective 7. ___ Elective 8. ___ Elective ___ TOTAL CREDITS GRADE 12
___ TOTAL CREDIT GRADES 9-11	___ FINAL TOTAL CREDITS

Graduation Requirements: 4 English, 4 Social Studies, 4 Math, 4 Science, 1 Foreign Lang., 1 PE, 1 Health, 1 Fine Art,  
5 Electives – 25 Total Credits

**NOTES:**

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**EARLY COLLEGE**

Students may choose to take advantage of the St. John Valley Early College Partnership served by the University of Maine at Fort Kent. This is an exciting opportunity for students to attend classes at UMFK while still attending high school. Please see the Director of Guidance for details.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

Students may choose to take advantage of some of the community service opportunities available at Wisdom High School. Credits will be issued based on the number of hours of community service a student completes by the end of the school year. See the principal or the guidance counselor for more information about community service.

**CYBER SCHOOL COURSES**

Interested students may take exciting and challenging courses through our CYBER school program sponsored by ECO 2000. Please see the Director of Guidance for course titles and registration forms. Courses normally run from November to April.

**AP COURSES**

Students may enroll for AP courses to count towards college credit. See the Director of Guidance for details.

**ST. JOHN VALLEY TECHNOLOGY CENTER COURSES**

Programs at the Saint John Valley Technology Center are listed in their handbook. See the Director of Guidance for a copy.

**COURSES AVAILABLE AT WISDOM HIGH SCHOOL**

**ENGLISH COURSES**

English I: Grade 9 1 Credit

Students in English I will study a wide variety of literary types including the short story, poetry, drama, essays, and novels. Students will be introduced to Shakespeare and Elizabethan English through the study of Romeo and Juliet. They will also be introduced to different levels of journaling, both personal and formal. They will use the complete writing process to compose personal narratives, short stories, poems, essays as they respond to different readings. Students will also complete an MLA Research Paper. A classroom novel will be read and analyzed together. Other required readings will be taken from the Glencoe Literature, Course 4 text. Students will be expected to develop, refine and utilize critical thinking skills to draw strong

connections between themselves and course content.

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English II: Grade 10 1 Credit

As a means of better understanding themselves and others, students will study various short stories, plays, and novels. To refine grammar skills and demonstrate clear, concise thinking, students will write proper and personal essays, as well as at least one research paper.

English III: Grade 11 1 Credit

Students in English III will learn about their world both past and present through the study of American literature. Critical and analytical thinking will be emphasized both in their reading and their writing curriculum. Students will polish their skills as independent thinkers as they communicate, reflect and understand their stories. Required readings will be taken from the Glencoe Literature, American Literature text. Students will be responsible for their reading and writing. They will also be responsible for informal and formal reader responses and varied writing prompts. Students will complete a formal MLA Research Paper.

Advanced English III: Grade 11 1 Credit

Students in Advanced English III will follow the same format as English III, however, content will be covered in more depth. There will be more reading, writing and presentations. Students will be expected to develop, refine and utilize critical thinking skills to draw strong connections between themselves and course content.

English IV: Grade 12 1 Credit

Since English IV is a study of English Literature, the reading portion of the course covers various British authors as well as cultures from the Middle Ages to modern times. The writing portion of Senior English concentrates on helping the student become a more successful communicator through the techniques of effective reading and writing, and public speaking.

AP English IV: Grade 12 1 College Credit

Students will engage in the careful reading and critical analysis of literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students can deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students learn to consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

College & Creative Writing: Full-Year Grades 10- 12 1 Credit

Students will be provided with additional opportunities to sharpen their writing skills in preparation for college/university studies. Various forms of formal essays are written and closely

critiqued. Students also practice writing creatively and thinking “outside the box.” It is highly advised that this course be part of a student’s academic schedule if he/she plans on pursuing a two- or four-year college or university. Students will leave will polished skills as independent thinkers and they will be able to express themselves through writing.

Publications :                    Full-Year                    Grades 10-12                    1 Credit

Students who enroll in publications will be creating the Pioneer yearbook entirely on-line. Creativity and computer knowledge are vital skills needed for this course in order to create and edit this program. Students must be motivated and highly organized. They must be able to work independently as well as with a group as they sell ads, sell yearbooks, collect photographs, and create pages.

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Genre Studies:                    Full-Year                    Grades 10-12                    1 Credit

Students in this course will study different genres of pop-literature and the recurring themes that are often seen in these specific genres. Students will read short stories, novels, and watch movies to explore the different styles of writing/movies these genres have to offer. Some of the authors and genres we will study are the horror genre through Edgar Allan Poe and Stephen King, and the mystery/detective genre through the adventures of “Sherlock Holmes” by Arthur Conan Doyle and short stories and novels by Agatha Christie. We will also study the science fiction genre. We will finish the year with a study of fiction that will be decided on by the group. Students will also study these genres by writing essays, short stories, and completing project oriented activities. The course will be divided into two semesters. Students interested in this course must be avid, self-motivated readers.

## FRENCH COURSES

French I:                    Grade 9                    1 Credit

French I is a required course designed for freshmen who wish to attend college. The stress is on learning to use the language fully, involving oral comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. The use of the cultural and linguistic aspects of our Acadian origin, as well as conversations in international French on topics meaningful to students, will help to accomplish this objective.

French II:                    Grade 10                    1 Credit

French II is a continuation of French I and involves basically the same components, yet at a more advanced level.

French III:                    Grade 11                    1 Credit

French III will cover the finer points of grammar, vocabulary, and communication. The use of

textbooks, conversation, brief compositions, articles on current events, and short stories from throughout the French-speaking world will help students to broaden and enrich their knowledge of both North American and international French.

## MATH COURSES

Algebra I:      Grades 9-12      1 Credit

Students will cover units in the rules and applications of algebra, linear equations, and inequalities, probability and statistics, properties of polynomials, factoring, rational and irrational numbers, radical expressions. Some geometry and quadratic equations will also be covered. This course expects students to have a working knowledge of decimals and fractions.

Geometry:              Grades 9-12              1 Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Students will discover a whole new way of doing and viewing math. Hands-on activities will include building scaled projects, using manipulatives, and rediscovering the value of pi. The familiar formulas of perimeter, area, and volume will be covered, as well as the basics of triangle-based trigonometry. Applications of algebra skills will help students understand the connectedness of underlying math principles.

Algebra II:      Grades 9-12      1 Credit

Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry

Students will study sets of numbers, the solution of linear equations and inequalities in two variables, solving verbal problems, matrices, properties of polynomials, rational expressions and factoring. Students will also develop concepts in quadratic relations and functions and the exponential and logarithmic functions.

Pre-Calc/Trig:      Grades 11-12      1 Credit

Prerequisites: Algebra II and Geometry

Students will be continuing from Algebra II. Further understanding of functions and their analysis will be stressed. Students will cover polynomial functions circular functions, inverse functions, inequalities, linear programming, analytic geometry, exponential and logarithmic functions, matrices and trigonometry. A graphing calculator is required for this course, as it will be used weekly.

Calculus:                              Grade 12                              1 Credit

Prerequisites: Pre-calculus

Students will learn two fundamentals of calculus: differentiation and integration. There will be a focus on problem solving, including areas between curves, volumes of irregular shapes, and projectile motions.

Business Math I and II:      Grades 10-12      1 Credit

Students will apply mathematic principles to business and consumer situations. Topics to be introduced include: banking services, consumer credit, home equity loans, insurance and investments, owning a home and/or vehicle, business data analysis, sales and marketing, business costs including profit and loss, and international business. \*A calculator is required. Business Math II is the continuation for students interested in the business career.

Senior Math: Grades 12 1 Credit

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 80% of the fastest-growing jobs in the United States require some training after high school and many of these jobs require a strong basis in math. This course will engage students in mathematical reasoning, critical thinking, abstract reasoning, critical thinking, and problem solving that will reinforce skills for higher learning in many different careers. Other topics will include: the art of problem solving, concept of set theories, logic, numeration and math systems, concepts of algebra, graphs and functions, statistics, and personal financial management.

### SCIENCE COURSES

Physical Science: Grade 9 1 Credit

Students will study many topics from many fields including physics, earth and space science, and chemistry. Lab experiences and practicals will be a major emphasis of the course, and students will be expected to solve problems based upon hands on learning.

Biology: Grade 10 1 Credit

Students will study life with some emphasis on labs covering units in cell biology, heredity, human physiology, ecology, and evolution. Throughout the course students will learn how biology relates to the world around them and advances in technology. Students will be using problem solving, scientific reasoning and will be expected to communicate effectively in the applications of biology and technology. Lab work will include dissections. Individual research and a major project will be required.

Biology II: Grades 11-12 1 Credit

Students will be exposed to a laboratory oriented course furthering the students' understanding of molecular biology, genetics, microbiology, botany, and zoology. This course will be tailored to student interests and career paths. Students will focus on scientific reasoning and will be expected to communicate effectively in an analytical manner. Individual research, lab design and a major project will be required.

Forensics: Grades 11-12 1 Credit

Students will focus on an overview of current concepts and techniques associated with the investigation of crime. Emphasis will be placed on scientific methodologies and on issues associated with biology, chemistry, and lab work.

Chemistry W/Lab: Grades 11 & 12 1 Credit

Students will learn the concepts of chemistry needed to prepare a student for a college level course. Covered topics include the atomic model, chemical reactions and equations, stoichiometry, kinetic theory, and thermochemistry. A strong emphasis is placed on problem solving skills, laboratory experimentation, and observation.

*NOTE:*

*S.A.D. #33 recognizes that students who show a legitimate, conscientious, and ethical reason not to do dissection will be offered an alternative assignment to dissection which meets the students needs while at the same time preserves the integrity of science courses. Refer to the "Alternatives to Dissection Policy" found in the District's policy manual est. 4/30/90.*

Human Anatomy & Physiology II Grades 11& 12 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Biology W/ Lab & Anatomy & Physiology I or permission of Instructor

Students will study the human body's structure and function of its parts along with the relationship of these parts. It is a continuation from Anatomy and Physiology I that finalizes the body systems remaining along with the pathophysiology of organisms. The dissection of organisms is the principle technique used to isolate and study the structural components of living organisms and their parts, therefore this is a course designed with many labs that require dissecting.

### SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

World Geography: Grade 9 1 Credit

Students will examine the physical features of the earth, land masses, bodies of water, climate, natural resources and ecosystems. Human geography is also covered as well as the division of the globe into regions and nations and considers the interaction of various cultures with each other and with the environment. Students will learn mapping skills and will do in-depth studies of physical and human geography for locations on all the continents. Instruction in this course will be designed to implement the *Maine State Learning Results* for geography and economics courses (comparative systems).

World History: Grade 10 1 Credit

Students will study the development of civilization from prehistory to modernity by studying how historical events, people, cultures and ideas relate to our own society. Particular emphasis will be placed on the development of the Western tradition. Islamic and East Asian cultures will be studied as well. In addition to a survey of the chronology of cultural development, students will take an in-depth look at selected historical topics, including interactions and clashes between cultures, the historical roots of democracy, the historical problem of prejudice, and the development of concepts of human rights and human dignity. Instruction in this course will be designed to implement the *Maine State Learning Results* for civics, history, and economics.

U.S. History: Grade 11 1 Credit

This course explores the major themes of US History from the Colonial Period to the present. The

course will include chronology of important political, legal, cultural, and economic events, as well as foreign affairs. It will explore the rights and responsibilities of free citizens living in a democracy, with an emphasis on the ideas incorporated in the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. The development of constitutional government will be traced. Contemporary issues and problems will be considered in their historical perspectives. Students will do in-depth research on selected events, presidents, and other individuals. Instruction in this course will be designed to implement the *Maine State Learning Results* for history, civics, and economics.

AP US History: Grades 11-12 1 College Credit

Students will be provided with the analytical skills and enduring understandings necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. An AP United States History course should thus develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in an essay format.

Students and the Law: Grades 10-12 1 Credit

Students will be exposed to a variety of legal issues. Students will study the historical roots of the American legal system, the sources of law, and the principals of Constitutional interpretation and contemporary legal issues that are in the news or impact their own lives. Students will learn how trials are conducted by watching actual court proceedings and by conducting mock trials. Instruction in this course will be designed to implement the Maine State Learning Results for Civics and History.

Cinematography: Grades 10-12 1 Credit

Students will learn about American and World history and culture through the study of film. Not only do movies retell historical events. The choice of subject matter, style, perspective and technique used in producing film reflect the artistic achievements, values and cultural perspectives of America and foreign nations at defining moments of modern history. Students will study film production techniques, view major American and foreign films, and read film reviews. They will develop the skills necessary to make critical analysis of cultural and intellectual historical topics.

### COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY COURSES

Computer Applications: Grade 10 1 Credit

Students will deal with every day applications of the micro-computer and related software. Emphasis will be on internet studies, transfer of information through internet via an on-line learning community using e-mailing, blogs, pod casts, and video conferencing. Students will have the opportunity to explore such programs as: Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point. Digital photography and digital video products will be used to produce slideshows, commercials, and short public announcements.

## FINE ART COURSES

Band: Grades 7-12 1 Credit

Working with the instructor, students design their individual goals with evaluations based on the individual's progress in attaining these goals. Students are expected to commit to performance activities such as games, graduations, and concerts.

High School Art Fundamentals I: Grades 9-12 1 Credit

This foundation course is structured to give students a broad experience in drawing, painting, computer and graphic design, as well as a continued examination of historical periods related to art. The curriculum for this class is based on the belief that each student needs to be grounded in the elements and principals of design, and in the development of their talent and creative energy inherent within each individual.

High School Art II: Grades 10-12 1 Credit

Building on foundations learned in art I, students will continue with lessons designed to expand their knowledge of content and technique. Careers in art will also be explored via art projects, slide shows, and guest speakers. Virtual Field trips to museums around the country, throughout the year, will reinforce information learned and give students a wider perspective, culturally and historically, of the art world. During the second half of the year, students will have the opportunity to choose an area of personal interest and develop a unit plan in which they can create art in a studio environment. While this is an open-ended project, there is much guidance and discussion with the teacher to ensure structure and accountability.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE

Physical Education: Grade 9 1 credit

Students will be provided both physical activities and knowledge of skills, games, and applicable rules and terminology. The curriculum consists of both team and individual sports, recreational and leisure time activities and is conducted both in and out of doors on a seasonal basis: soccer, physical fitness testing, floor hockey, team handball, basketball, volleyball, indoor lacrosse, badminton, paddleball, softball, palm ball, pickle ball, floor tennis, table tennis, shuffleboard, racquetball, and recreational games. Course Objectives: Through physical education, the student realizes the value of physical activities and fitness, and is able to apply the skills and knowledge in recreational form, thus leading to continued enhancement of social, mental, emotional, and physical development. This is achieved in the following progression: Grades 9-12 Continue development of individual skills and a progressive understanding of rules and terminology. Students utilize the abilities and knowledge learned from previous experiences and applies them to competitive, recreational, and leisure time activities.