

Wisdom High School

2007-2008

PROGRAM OF STUDY HANDBOOK

"Chart your course and chose 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 its 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, 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 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 field 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?*
- 2. In classes you have already taken, 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 service after high school, getting accepted is no longer automatic. The services not only require a diploma, but a certain level 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 grade (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, 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	½
Fine Arts	1
Physical Education	1
Computer Applications	1 (through Class of 2009)
*Foreign Language	1 (Class of 2008+)

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.

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 a new and exciting opportunity for students to attend classes at UMFK. 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 on 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.

ATM COURSES

Students may enroll for courses offered in the ATM program. 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, dramas, essays, and novels. Students will be introduced to Shakespeare and work on an intensive poetry unit. 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, and they will respond to different readings. A classroom novel will be read and analyzed together. Other required readings will be taken from the Glencoe Literature, Course 4 text. Students will also complete an MLA Research Paper.

Advanced English I: Grade 9 1 Credit

Students in Advanced English I will follow the same format as English I, 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 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 least one research paper.

Advanced English II : Grade 10 1 Credit

Students in Advanced English will follow the same format as English II. However, the content will be covered in more depth and students will work more independently. Students will be expected to develop, refine and utilize critical thinking skills to draw connections between themselves and course content.

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 on a topic of their choice.

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 and culture 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, as well as public speaking.

Advanced English IV: Grade 12 1 Credit

Students in Advanced English IV will follow the same format as English IV. However, the content will be covered in more depth and students will work more independently. Students will be expected to develop, refine and utilize critical thinking skills to draw connections between themselves and course content.

English Composition I and II: Full-Year Grades 9- 12 1 Credit

This course provides students 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 senior's academic schedule if he/she plans on pursuing a two- or four-year college or university.

Culture in Literature: Full-Year 1 Credit

In this course, students will study ideas, customs, skills, art, music and languages of specific cultures around the world by reading fiction and non-fiction material. Creative analysis of various types of literature will help students open their minds as well as sharpen their writing and reading skills.

Poetry: Semester ½ Credit

Students in this course will examine the creative world of poetry. They will examine great poets of the past as well as contemporary poets. Students will read and write different forms of poetry. They will also demonstrate the ability to orally present poetry to different audiences. Students will gain an appreciation of poetic forms and build confidence in their ability to create poetry.

Media Literacy: Semester ½ Credit

Students will learn how to interpret, analyze, and evaluate today's media sources. Students will investigate the societal, cultural, and political aspects of producing media. Possible topics of investigation are advertising, the internet, movies, music, television, and newspapers and magazines.

FRENCH COURSES

French I: Grade 9 1 Credit

French I is a required course designed for freshmen pursuing the college preparatory program. The stress is on learning to use the language fully, involving oral comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. This will be accomplished through the use of the cultural aspects of our Acadian origin as well as through the use of standard French conversations on topics that are meaningful to students.

French II: Grade 10 1 Credit

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

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. 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

This course is a continuation and review of Algebra I. Topics include sets of numbers, the solution of linear equations and inequalities in two variables, solving verbal problems, matrices, properties of polynomials, rational expressions and factoring. It also develops 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

This course is designed as a fourth-year mathematics course continuing from Algebra II. The course generally includes trigonometry, rectangular coordinates, circular functions, inverse functions, inequalities, linear programming, analytic geometry, exponential and logarithmic functions, matrices and sequences. Trigonometry and its functions will be an integral part of this course.

BUSINESS/MATH COURSES

Business Math: Grades 11-12 1 Credit

This course is recommended for students who are interested in the business career. It is designed to 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 : Grades 11-12 1 Credit

Continuation of Business Math I for students who are interested in the business career.

SCIENCE COURSES

Physical Science: Grade 9 1 Credit

This course is comprised of 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.

Environmental Science: Prerequisite: Biology Grades 11-12 1 Credit

This is an upper-level course which examines and proposes solutions for the major environmental problems confronting the Earth today. The study of various habitats, and ecological relationships existing within them will be an integral part of the course. Students will gain a balanced approach to the diverse study of our environment. This course will provide all the science background students will need to analyze the many issues concerning our environment.

Biology: Grade 10 1 Credit

This course is the study of life, and it is a laboratory oriented course. Students will cover units in cell biology, heredity, human physiology, ecology, and they will compare organisms from the simplest to the most complex. 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.

College Biology: Grade 10 1 Credit

This course is a laboratory oriented course. It covers units in cell biology, heredity, microbiology, botany, zoology, human physiology, and ecology. 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.

Chemistry: Grades 11 & 12 1 Credit

This course will cover the same major topics as Chemistry W/Lab, but with more opportunity for basic skills practice in class. A strong emphasis is placed on problem solving skills, laboratory experimentation, and observation.

Chemistry W/Lab: Grades 11 & 12 1 Credit

This course introduces the concepts of Chemistry needed to prepare a student for a college level Chemistry 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.

Forensics: Grades 11-12 1 Credit

This course 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 and chemistry and lab work.

Recreational Science: Grades 10-12 2 Credits

(Elective not to be counted towards PE credit or science requirements)

This program emphasizes the study of movement and its application to effectively and efficiently partake in sports that can be practiced throughout one's lifetime. This course will include readings, reports, exams, and field experiences which will give students an opportunity to develop skills through gained knowledge and by participation in various individual sports such as, but not limited to, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, canoeing, kayaking, biking, and hiking.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

World Geography: Grade 9 1 Credit

This course examines the physical features of the earth, land masses, bodies of water, climate, natural resources and ecosystems. Human geography is also covered. The course examines 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

This course provides a survey of the development of civilization from prehistory to modernity. Students will explore 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.

Students and the Law: Grades 10-12 1 Credit

This elective course will expose students 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.

Psychology: Grades 11 & 12 1 Credit

This course examines human cognition and behavior. Through this course, the student will better understand human thought and emotions, and the relationship between the self and others. Topics include the theories of leading psychologists, developmental psychology, abnormal psychology, dysfunctional behavior, therapies, treatment of mentally ill in institutional settings, grief process, personality, and psychological testing.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY COURSES

Computer Applications: Grade 10 1 Credit

This course is designed to deal with every day applications of the micro-computer and related software. Emphasis will be on daily financial, record keeping, and home centered activities that will give a better end product and allow the user more time to devote to other endeavors.

Video Productions: Grades 10-12 1 Credit

Prerequisites: Computer Applications or Instructor Approval

This full year course is designed for students with knowledge in various computer applications wanting to enhance computer skills by learning to create digitally enhanced videos using digital video editing hardware and software. Skills gained will be operative techniques of the digital video camera and computer, titling, sound mixing, transitions, video effects, and cropping.

FINE ARTS COURSES

Band: Grades 7-12 1 Credit

Band is considered a fine arts elective for beginners and advanced students. Working with the instructor, students design their individual goals and evaluations are based on the individual=s progress in attaining these goals. Grades are also determined by observing the student=s willingness in following instructions, and commitment in performance activities such as games, graduations, concerts, etc.. Students have the opportunity of earning an A by fulfilling their own objectives, performing at assigned functions, and preparing and completing a teacher approved audition. Other activities may be substituted with the consent of the student and the director.

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, in the idea to develop their talent and creative energy they bring with them.

Sculpture & 3-D Design : 1 credit

This course is an introduction to the study of volume and space. Its goal is to develop an appreciation of structures and an awareness and understanding of the processes and materials that go into formation. Lessons will include a wide range of themes in sculpture as well as issues related to design. Students will be working with a wide assortment of materials. Projects will include, but are not limited to ceramic vessels, relief sculptures, interior design, and puppetry.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE

Physical Education: Grade 9 1 credit

This course is designed and conducted in a manner as to provide 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. Utilizing the abilities and knowledge learned from previous experiences and applying them to competitive, recreational, and leisure time activities.