



Spring/Summer 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians of Future Wahoo High School (WHS) Students:

Registration materials for the high school 2008-2009 school year may be downloaded from the Wahoo Public Schools webpage www.wahooschools.org or picked up in the office.

You may wish to download the entire *Curriculum Guide* to review prior to completing any registration forms. Other forms to download include: the *2009 Generic Registration* form, *Back Registration Side 2* form, the *PLP (Personal Learning Plan) 08* and *PLP WHS 08*. All forms are to be returned to the Guidance Office until June 6, 2008. Over the summer, completed registration forms may be returned to the High School Office.

Students should select courses based on WHS graduation requirements and required classes (See page 6 in the *Curriculum Guide*). Samples of 4-year, future plans (ibid. pps. 4, 5), course descriptions, prerequisites for classes, graduation requirements and credits, college planning for athletes, etc. may be found in the *Curriculum Guide*.

As part of the registration process, your child needs to complete a 4-year Personal Learning Plan (PLP) to anticipate the classes s/he needs to take to meet post-graduate institutions' academic requirements for admission.

You will need to sign the registration form in the lower right hand corner of the page and return the form as soon as possible to be formally registered for next year's classes. Please be aware that once the schedule is set in the Spring and current students registered, class size may limit the opportunity for late registrants to get into a particular class.

This year, more juniors and seniors took advantage of Distance Learning courses that were offered at the high school. A major reason was to get a head start on getting some of their college General Education requirements out of the way while in high school to save time and money. Other reasons were to take a course not offered here at WHS, like German, or because the student had an interest in a particular college level course.

Distance Learning classes, along with the registration form, are listed on the Wahoo Public Schools website (www.wahooschools.org) in February/March for the following Fall, and again in November for courses offered in the Spring. Some courses are for a semester, while others are a year-long. Distance Learning courses may be for high school credit only, for college credit only, or for dual credit (both high school and college credit). Courses for college credit require students to pay tuition, fees and books to the college granting credit for a course.

The majority of your questions may be answered by referring to the Curriculum Guide, or on the reverse side of this letter with "Commonly Asked Registration Questions" Please feel free to contact me if you have questions regarding registration until June 6th or, in the fall, after August 6th.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Kopish
Counselor

Commonly Asked Registration Questions

1. Which math class should my child sign up for?

Students planning to attend a 2-year college and/or a 4-year college choose from: Algebra 1, Geometry or Honors Geometry, Algebra 2, Transition to College Math, Pre-calculus & Trigonometry or Calculus. Students planning to attend a technical or trade school that doesn't require 4-year college prep math classes, choose from the following: Algebra 1, Algebra 1A (with teacher permission), Geometry, Algebra 2 or Math for the Trades in a normal sequence of difficulty. Remember, Algebra 1 is required for ALL students before graduating from Wahoo High School.

The Math requirement changed from 30 credits to 40 credits beginning with the Class of 2010. Students following the Class of 2010 will also be required to take four years of math instead of three. Algebra 1 courses taken in Middle School will be accepted for credit on high school transcripts, so this should not be a difficult transition for the Class of 2010 and beyond.

2. What type of science class should my child sign up for?

Students should investigate the entrance requirements of any school or college they plan to apply to in order to determine the school's specific science requirements. Most 4-year colleges want three to four years of lab sciences. Lab sciences include: General Science, Biology, Human Anatomy & Physiology, Chemistry and/or Physics. Integrated Science 1, 2 and 3 are geared toward students who want a more general approach to science, or plan to go into a technical school or 2-year college program that does not need a lab science as a requirement. The Integrated Science classes are similar to that of Europe where students will get a combination of Life Science (for example, Biology) along with physical science, chemistry and physics.

Students are required to have three years (30 credits) of science, but there is no particular science classes required for graduation from WHS.

3. What is the difference between a technical school and 2-year college?

For students intending to transfer to a 4-year college after getting a 2-year degree: It's important to check out the 4-year college requirements of the college(s) you may wish to transfer into. Ask about "articulation agreements" for any courses you take at the 2-year college to ensure 2-year college courses transfer to the 4-year college. Sometimes, a 4-year college will NOT accept courses from a 2-year college. You need to know that ahead of time to limit the number of classes you would have to retake at the 4-year college if possible. This will save you time and money! A technical school provides a hands-on type of occupation like auto mechanic, veterinary aide, welding, carpentry, plumbing, cosmetology, hairstyling, computer tech., etc. A 2-year college is similar, but includes required classes in core areas like English and Math. Occupations like accounting, business, dental hygiene, criminal justice, journalism, and pre-pharmacy would be courses of study at a 2-year college.

4. What does that little sign (^) in front of a class mean on the back of the registration form where all the classes offered are listed? The little sign (^) in front of a class is to note that the class requires a prerequisite.

5. What does prerequisite mean (and how do you say it)? A prerequisite (pre-reck-qwi-zit) means that before your child can take this particular class, s/he must have a certain class to prepare for the prerequisite class; or have a certain grade in a previous class, or have a certain percentile in a previous class, or have the permission of the teacher (teachers need to initial the registration form to indicate the student has permission to enroll in the class) who will be teaching the class in order to register for the class. For example, to take Computer Applications 1, students need to have taken Keyboarding, first, since keyboarding skills are necessary to do the work in the Computer Applications 1 class.

6. What is a core class? Core classes are English, Math, Science, and Social Studies courses. Graduation requirements include these core courses. Our education system expects all students to have basic information in these general areas so they can function well in the real world, on the job, and in college or other post graduate schools.

7. What are "required classes" needed for graduation? In addition to taking and passing core classes, Wahoo High School graduation requirements include classes from other areas like Fine Arts, Business & Industrial Technology, Life Skills and Physical Education. Some of these classes are required because of guidelines set by the Nebraska Department of Education. Other classes are required in order to ensure students receive a balanced, well-rounded education prior to graduating from high school that will aid them in their post-graduate work, training or college planning.

8. How are graduation "credits" earned? Each semester class a student passes with a 70% (D-) or higher, is worth five (5) credits. Students generally take seven courses per semester and earn 35 credits each semester. Students do not earn credits for study hall and special options like TA (Teacher Aide).

9. What are Elective classes? Electives are optional classes offered to students. Students choose electives because: 1) they need to meet the 250 credit requirement to graduate from WHS; or 2) they need the class to prepare for college; 3) they are interested in the class; 4) because they want to develop a skill; or 5) they want to explore something new. For example, a lot of Senior girls take Woods, so they can learn how to make shelves and other wood products, and learn to handle tools.

10. What special options for Seniors? Seniors in good standing (meaning they are on track to graduate with credits and required classes) have some non-credit options. These include: Mid-Year Graduate, START Program (late start or early out), or Teacher Aide (TA). More information can be found in the *Curriculum Guide* on these options.