Pewamo-Westphalia Community Schools

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PWMHS - Course Offerings & Options for 9-10th Grade Students

9th Grade

Core Classes: Algebra 1 / Geometry, English 9, United States History 9, and Physical Science 9

Mandated Non-Core Classes: Computers 9 and Physical Education 9

Optional Electives: American Sign Language 1, Art 9-12, Band 9-12, Drafting, Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Introduction to Woods, Woods I, and Stage Arts 9-12

10th Grade

Core Classes: Geometry / Algebra 2, English 10, World History 10, and Biology 10

Mandated Non-Core Classes: Health 10 and Careers 10

Intervention Class Options: Math Lab 9-12

Optional Electives: Computer Science Principles *, American Sign Language 1, American Sign Language 2, Art 9-12, Band 9-12, Drafting 10-12, Graphic Design, Life Fitness 10-12, LINKS ^, Multimedia 10-12, Spanish 2, Spanish 3-4-5, Stage Arts 9-12, Woods 1 and Woods 2

** College Board "Advanced Placement" Course* *^ Only By Approval*

Lansing Community College Dual Enrollment (DE) Options

High School Advantage (HSA) Courses *: English 121, English 122, Geography 221, Sociology 120, Communication 120, Humanities 160

Traditional Dual Enrollment Courses ^: See Lansing Community College's Course Catalog

** HSA Courses are Fully Funded and Free to Qualifying Students*

^ Traditional Dual Enrollment Courses are Partially Funded and Have a Cost to Students / Families

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Course Descriptions and Links for 9th Grade Students

Algebra 1 Syllabus State Standards

In this course, students will learn numerous topics including recognizing and developing patterns using tables, graphs, and equations as well exploring operations on algebraic expressions and applying mathematical properties to algebraic equations. Students will also solve problems using equations, graphs and tables to investigate linear and non-linear relationships. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge through homework, quizzes, tests, and midterm/semester exams.

Geometry Syllabus State Standards

In this course students learn about concepts involving geometric shapes in two and three dimensions. Topics covered include congruence, similarity, transformations, area, volume, right triangle trigonometry, and circles. Students will be expected to use critical thinking skills to analyze and solve problems. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge through homework, quizzes, tests, and midterm/semester exams.

English 9 Syllabus State Standards

English 9 focuses on a variety of introductory high school anchor texts, including a graphic novel, a Shakespearean play, a novel, and multiple short stories. Students will annotate, analyze, and discuss the texts. Students will practice discovering and using literary techniques through their reading and writing. Speaking and listening standards are also addressed through collaboration and presentation. Writing strategies are heavily discussed and practiced during the composition of multiple writing assignments of varying lengths throughout the year.

United States History 9 Syllabus State Standards

This is a full year class that will concentrate on the national and international growth of the United States in the last 150 years. We will examine the political, economic, international, and diplomatic challenges that were met by the country and the resulting growth of the USA into the world's leading power. A brief look at the challenges which face the US in the 21st century will end the semester.

Physical Science 9 Syllabus State Standards

An introductory course designed to allow students to explore the basic concepts of physical science. Students will be introduced to the history, methods, and nature of science. By following the progression of energy through different systems, students will be able to recognize and predict forces and patterns in nature regardless of the scale of the system they are studying.

Computers 9 Syllabus State Standards

Computers 9 is a hands-on course in which students further understand and master the most up-to-date concepts involving computer technology. Students will further learn concepts related to digital citizenship, evaluating the credibility of online information, website development, Web 2.0, video production, computer hardware repair, programming and other computer science related topics. Also, during the semester, students will learn to use various software - including Spreadsheets, Google Drive, Google Docs, Adobe Photoshop, Premiere, Illustrator, and

Audacity. Students will also be able to follow their passion with independent work time culminating in a final project and presentation.

Physical Education 9 Syllabus State Standards

This course focuses on total fitness and working as a team. The weekly schedule includes two days of physical workouts, two days of sport challenges and team builders, and one day devoted to agility, speed, and health topics. By introducing students to these different training styles, we help them build the confidence and habits needed for a lifetime of activity.

American Sign Language I Syllabus State Standards

Everyday communication is the centerpiece of every lesson within American Sign Language I. Using the Signing Naturally curriculum, students will learn vocabulary and sentence structure that revolves around sharing information about our environment and ourselves. Grammar is introduced in context, with an emphasis on developing question and answering skills. Specific strategies are learned to help you maintain a meaningful conversation with a deaf individual. The coursework centers on the exchange of personal and environmental information, teaching students how to introduce oneself, discuss their surroundings, and share personal narratives through frequent, low-stakes opportunities to rehearse real-world scenarios, build visual-spatial awareness, and cultivate the attentiveness required for fluency within the Deaf community.

Art (Draw, Paint, Sculpt, Studio Art A, Studio Art B) 9-12

State Standards Drawing Syllabus Painting Syllabus Sculpture Syllabus Studio Art A Studio Art B

Students enrolled in "Drawing" will learn the fundamentals of drawing using a variety of dry media - including graphite pencils, chalk pastels, oil crayons, charcoal, and PrismaColor pencils. Wet media, such as markers, ink, and watercolor, will sometimes be incorporated as well. Several drawing styles will be explored - including realistic rendering, sketching, crosshatch, stippling, and block shading. Those enrolled in "Painting" will learn the fundamentals of painting, using a variety of wet media - including acrylic paint, tempera paint, watercolors, ink, and oil crayons mixed with Turpenoid Natural. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of color theory concepts, including color mixing, color harmony, and atmospheric perspective. Those enrolled in "Sculpture" will learn the fundamentals of three-dimensional design and structure. A variety of materials will be used to construct projects - including plastic, cardboard, wood, paper, wire, plaster, paper mache, found objects, modeling clay, and various other materials. Students will also learn the technique of throwing clay on a potter's wheel as well as hand-building clay sculptures.

Band 9-12 Syllabus State Standards

High school band focuses on ensemble skills and general performance. Students participate in both concert and marching band throughout the school year. They may also participate in our before- school (extracurricular) jazz band. As a co-curricular activity, Band 9-12 students are expected to attend relevant rehearsals and events outside the normal school day - including band camp and night rehearsals through the summer.

Spanish 1 Syllabus State Standards

Students will become familiar with the language, culture and social norms of the Spanish language. They will become proficient in several tenses including: present, present progressive, near future, near past, imperfect and imperfect progressive. Students will be able to articulate their thoughts both orally and in written form. They will be actively working on improving their pronunciation and imitating the natural pacing of Spanish in order to sound more fluid in their speech. They will learn about the different aspects of culture and its effect on the Spanish language as well as being exposed to culturally-relevant and authentic speech.

Spanish 2 Syllabus State Standards

Students will continue to familiarize themselves with several aspects of the language, culture and social norms of Spanish. They will become proficient in several tenses including: present, present progressive, near future, near past, imperfect, imperfect progressive, preterite, future, past perfect, conditional perfect, and future perfect tenses. They will continue to master previously taught grammatical concepts while developing new ones. They will be continuously working on improving their pronunciation of the language as well as imitating the natural pacing of Spanish in order to sound more fluid in their speech. There will be a strong focus on producing vibrating and plosive sounds with accuracy and identifying auditory input with accuracy. They will continue to learn about the different aspects of culture and its effect on the Spanish language as well as being exposed to culturally relevant speech.

Introduction to Woods Syllabus State Standards

Woods Intro is a foundational, lab-based woodworking course that introduces students to the basic skills and knowledge needed to work safely and effectively in a shop environment. Students learn key concepts such as safety procedures, tool identification, proper use of tools, measurement, joints, finishing techniques, and basic project design, all under the supervision of the instructor after completing safety training. They demonstrate their learning through hands-on projects, written assignments and tests, and verbal assessments, with grades based on effort, participation, and overall performance. The course also emphasizes writing skills across the curriculum, requiring students to complete assignments using proper grammar, complete sentences, and paragraph structure. Students must come prepared with materials, wear eye protection at all times in the shop, and follow strict safety and behavior expectations, including maintaining a clean workspace and showing respect for others. Overall, the course focuses on building essential woodworking skills, safe work habits, and strong academic practices to support future success in more advanced classes.

Stage Arts 9-12 Syllabus State Standards

Our PWMHS Theater and Stage Arts programming has been around for decades – putting on amazing large ensemble performances throughout the years such as *Oklahoma* (1992-93), *Grease* (2001-02), *High School Musical* (2014-15), and *Shrek* (2024-25). With both middle school and high school components, this platform offers students the opportunity to take classes that teach acting, singing, and dancing, show off their artistic side within our stage crew (set / prop design

and construction), and learn how to operate advanced equipment as a member of the tech team. This course includes at least two required evening productions per year.

Course Descriptions and Links for 10th Grade Students

Biology 10 Syllabus State Standards

This course provides students with an understanding of how humans are a part of and subsequently impact biological systems. It equips them with the understanding they need to properly understand the dynamics of life on Earth. The course begins by familiarizing students with the nature of scientific inquiry in biology and establishes two overarching themes of the discipline: interconnectedness of biological systems and evolution. The units that follow proceed through a treatment of cell theory, genetics, evolution and biodiversity. The instructional approach of the course is one of constructivist inquiry where students' master key concepts and skills through the pursuit of focus questions using explorative activities, experimentation, concept writing and substantive classroom discussion.

Geometry Syllabus State Standards

In this course students learn about concepts involving geometric shapes in two and three dimensions. Topics covered include congruence, similarity, transformations, area, volume, right triangle trigonometry, and circles. Students will be expected to use critical thinking skills to analyze and solve problems. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge through homework, quizzes, tests, and midterm/semester exams.

Algebra 2 Syllabus State Standards

In this course, students will learn numerous topics including recognizing and developing patterns using tables, graphs, and equations as well exploring operations on algebraic expressions and applying mathematical properties to algebraic equations. Students will also solve problems using equations, graphs and tables to investigate linear and non-linear relationships. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge through homework, quizzes, tests, and midterm/semester exams.

English 10 Syllabus State Standards

In English 10, students are exposed to the various periods of American literature and the ideas that shaped the writing of those times. Students read and analyze works of American literature from Native American literature all the way to contemporary times - including poetry, short stories, novels, dramas, and nonfiction. The course focuses on historical as well as literary themes through reading, writing, listening/viewing, and speaking. Texts are selected from a diverse group of authors for what they reflect and reveal about the evolving American experience and character. Students will also gain knowledge and experience in writing through analysis, research, and the use of argumentative strategies.

World History 10 Syllabus State Standards

World History explores the major political, economic, cultural, geographic, and social developments that have shaped our modern world. Throughout the course, students examine key turning points from the Mongol Empire and global exploration to imperialism and the World Wars, while connecting historical events to present-day global issues. Emphasis is placed on developing critical thinking, historical analysis, and literacy skills through discussion, writing, primary sources, and multimedia resources. By the end of the course, students will better understand how the past influences today's world and their role as informed citizens in a global society.

Health 10 Syllabus State Standards

The goal of Health Education is to help establish patterns of behavior that will assist a person in achieving complete health. This is done by following the Michigan Model education standards along with updated current facts and events going on around us. This is a mandated course needed for general graduation from high school. Complete health is accomplished by having a balance of physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being. This course is designed to offer students in grades 10 the opportunity to acquire knowledge, incorporate process and life skills, and develop positive attitudes about life. Building a solid foundation of good decision-making skills can contribute to a variety of healthy choices for themselves and others. Study will include personal and community health; mental, emotional, and social health; injury prevention and safety; nutrition and physical activity; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; and reproductive health.

Careers 10 Syllabus State Standards

Careers 10 is a class designed to help students be successful, no matter what education and career path they choose. Students will gain a more comprehensive preparedness for college and the workforce. Also, the students will learn the principles of personal finance and even cover topics such as taxes, investing, and budgeting. Additional topics will include: taxes, investing, budgeting, Career Cruising using Xello, Education Development Plan completion, career exploration, job outlook, job shadowing, SMART goals, presentations, employment/interview skills, and resume writing.

American Sign Language I Syllabus State Standards

Everyday communication is the centerpiece of every lesson within American Sign Language I. Using the Signing Naturally curriculum, students will learn vocabulary and sentence structure that revolves around sharing information about our environment and ourselves. Grammar is introduced in context, with an emphasis on developing question and answering skills. Specific strategies are learned to help you maintain a meaningful conversation with a deaf individual. The coursework centers on the exchange of personal and environmental information, teaching students how to introduce oneself, discuss their surroundings, and share personal narratives through frequent, low-stakes opportunities to rehearse real-world scenarios, build visual-spatial awareness, and cultivate the attentiveness required for fluency within the Deaf community.

American Sign Language II Syllabus State Standards

Building on the foundation established in ASL I, this course continues to utilize the Signing Naturally curriculum to transition students from basic comprehension to functional fluency. While the first level focuses on basic expressive and receptive recognition, ASL II shifts from isolated vocabulary to contextual communication, emphasizing the cultural nuances and grammatical structures essential for natural interaction with the Deaf community. Students will move beyond literal translation and develop the mindset of a native signer by focusing on the entire message rather than individual signs to grasp the "big picture." This development includes processing intent by applying Non-Manual Markers (facial expressions) and spatial agreement more fluidly to convey grammatical concepts, while also utilizing active clarification to confirm information by asking questions to bridge gaps in understanding. To mirror the linguistic environment of the Deaf community, "voices off" policies will be observed to maximize visual learning and cognitive adaptation.

Art (Draw, Paint, Sculpt, Studio Art A, Studio Art B) 9-12 State Standards

Drawing Syllabus Painting Syllabus Sculpture Syllabus Studio Art A Studio Art B

Students enrolled in “Drawing” will learn the fundamentals of drawing using a variety of dry media - including graphite pencils, chalk pastels, oil crayons, charcoal, and PrismaColor pencils. Wet media, such as markers, ink, and watercolor, will sometimes be incorporated as well. Several drawing styles will be explored - including realistic rendering, sketching, crosshatch, stippling, and block shading. Those enrolled in “Painting” will learn the fundamentals of painting, using a variety of wet media - including acrylic paint, tempera paint, watercolors, ink, and oil crayons mixed with Turpenoid Natural. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of color theory concepts, including color mixing, color harmony, and atmospheric perspective. Those enrolled in “Sculpture” will learn the fundamentals of three-dimensional design and structure. A variety of materials will be used to construct projects - including plastic, cardboard, wood, paper, wire, plaster, paper mache, found objects, modeling clay, and various other materials. Students will also learn the technique of throwing clay on a potter’s wheel as well as hand-building clay sculptures.

Band 9-12 Syllabus State Standards

Our high school band course is focused on ensemble skills and general performance. Students participate in both concert and marching band throughout the school year. They may also participate in our before- school (extracurricular) jazz band. As a co-curricular activity, Band 9-12 students are expected to attend relevant rehearsals and events outside the normal school day - including band camp and night rehearsals through the summer.

Computer Science Principles (AP) Syllabus State Standards

Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges students to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. More than a traditional introduction to programming, it is a rigorous, engaging, and approachable course that explores many of the foundational ideas of computing. Unlike all other AP courses, students will create a java based programming project to submit to College Board in addition to the final exam.

Drafting Syllabus State Standards

Mechanical Drafting is a semester-long course that introduces students to the fundamentals of technical drawing and design through a combination of traditional board drafting and modern CAD (Computer-Aided Design) software, with the course evenly split between manual and digital work. Students develop skills in creating precise drawings using drafting tools, navigating CAD programs such as AutoCAD or Fusion 360, and applying industry-standard practices to produce multiview and sectional drawings with proper dimensioning. The course also builds an understanding of basic mechanical components and assemblies while emphasizing clear visual communication using standard drafting conventions. Students are expected to maintain clean, accurate work, follow ANSI/ISO standards, use class time effectively, and participate in critiques and revisions, preparing them with essential skills for technical and engineering-related fields.

Architectural Drafting is a semester-long course that focuses on the fundamentals of residential design through both traditional board drafting and modern CAD software, with equal emphasis on manual and digital techniques. Students learn to create accurate architectural drawings, including floor plans, elevations, and sections, while applying proper dimensioning, scaling, and industry-standard conventions. The course develops an understanding of basic residential design concepts and building components, while strengthening students' ability to clearly communicate architectural ideas. Students are expected to produce neat, accurate, and properly scaled drawings, stay organized and prepared, use class time productively, and participate in critiques and revisions. Emphasis is also placed on responsibility in using tools, equipment, and technology, helping students build both technical drafting skills and professional work habits.

Photography / Graphic Design Syllabus State Standards

This course focuses on the basics of photography, including building and understanding of aperture, shutter speed, lighting and composition. Students will use professional equipment but will also learn about smartphone camera operation. Students will build a portfolio of images and design graphics, logos and print layouts.

Life Fitness 10-12 Syllabus State Standards

Life Fitness is a high-energy course designed to unlock your physical potential by focusing on the core pillars of strength, explosiveness, and consistent effort. You will dive deep into movement mechanics and performance training to become a more capable, powerful version of yourself. Through regular testing in sprinting, jumping, and lifting, we track your progress and analyze your unique athletic profile to help you reach your peak.

Life Skills 6-12 Syllabus and State Standards

Students with an IEP will develop the practical skills they will need outside the classroom, such as choice making, collaboration, communication, good citizenship, rights and responsibilities, daily living, problem solving, social skills, job skills, banking, time, money, and everyday math needed for adult living. These skills will further assist them in their everyday adult lives both at home, in the workplace, and out in the community.

LINKS Syllabus Informational Video

In this course, a student is paired up with another student with a disability in order to help them increase their social skills, confidence, organization, and comfort in the classroom. Students are expected to go with their student to class and help them to facilitate conversations with their classmates and teacher, as well as to aid them with any questions they may have in regards to the coursework. For class requirements, students are expected to complete weekly online modules, fill out a daily log, come to monthly case conference meetings, and do semester projects.

Multimedia Syllabus State Sta ndards

The focus of this course is to equip students with essential technological tools and skills for creating various images, videos, and other digital publications. Students will learn to control DSLR cameras manually and basic camera composition. Topics include photography, cinematography, lighting, video editing, and photo editing. Student creations will be posted online and submitted to film festivals and competitions.

Spanish 1 Syllabus State Standards

Students will become familiar with the language, culture and social norms of the Spanish language. They will become proficient in several tenses including: present, present progressive, near future, near past, imperfect and imperfect progressive. Students will be able to articulate their thoughts both orally and in written form. They will be actively working on improving their pronunciation and imitating the natural pacing of Spanish in order to sound more fluid in their speech. They will learn about the different aspects of culture and its effect on the Spanish language as well as being exposed to culturally-relevant and authentic speech.

Spanish 2 Syllabus State Standards

Students will continue to familiarize themselves with several aspects of the language, culture and social norms of Spanish. They will become proficient in several tenses including: present, present progressive, near future, near past, imperfect, imperfect progressive, preterite, future, past perfect, conditional perfect, and future perfect tenses. They will continue to master previously taught grammatical concepts while developing new ones. They will be continuously working on improving their pronunciation of the language as well as imitating the natural pacing of Spanish in order to sound more fluid in their speech. There will be a strong focus on producing vibrating and plosive sounds with accuracy and identifying auditory input with accuracy. They will continue to learn about the different aspects of culture and its effect on the Spanish language as well as being exposed to culturally relevant speech.

Spanish 3 Syllabus State Standards

Students will become proficient in several tenses including: present, present progressive, near future, near past, imperfect, imperfect progressive, past perfect, future and preterite tenses as well as the subjunctive mood. Students will be able to articulate their thoughts both orally and in written form. They will continue to master previously learned grammatical concepts as well as working on improving their pronunciation and imitating the natural pacing of Spanish in order to sound more fluid in their speech. They will learn about the different aspects of culture and its

effect on the Spanish language as well as being exposed to culturally relevant and authentic speech.

Stage Arts 9-12 Syllabus State Standards

Our PWMHS Theater and Stage Arts programming has been around for decades – putting on amazing large ensemble performances throughout the years such as *Oklahoma* (1992-93), *Grease* (2001-02), *High School Musical* (2014-15), and *Shrek* (2024-25). With both middle school and high school components, this platform offers students the opportunity to take classes that teach acting, singing, and dancing, show off their artistic side within our stage crew (set / prop design and construction), and learn how to operate advanced equipment as a member of the tech team. This course includes at least two required evening productions per year.

Woods 1 Syllabus State Standards

Woods I at is an introductory, lab-based woodworking course designed to teach students the fundamental skills needed to work safely and effectively in a shop environment. Students learn essential topics such as safety procedures, tool identification, proper use of tools, measurement, wood identification, joints, finishing techniques, and basic project design, including cabinet construction. They demonstrate their understanding through hands-on projects, written assignments and tests, and verbal assessments, with daily points awarded for effort and participation and progress updated weekly. Students are expected to come prepared with basic materials, consistently wear eye protection in the shop, and follow strict safety rules at all times. The course emphasizes respect, responsibility, and maintaining a clean workspace, while encouraging a positive attitude and strong work ethic to ensure a safe and productive learning environment.

Dual Enrollment Options

Michigan's dual enrollment law, primarily Public Act 160 of 1996 (the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act) and Public Act 258 of 2000, allows high school students to earn college credits at public or private colleges and universities, with school districts obligated to pay tuition and fees for eligible courses. The law requires school districts to provide information on dual enrollment opportunities and allows districts to support students beyond the minimum requirements, but eligibility is restricted to courses that satisfy degree requirements and are not hobby-based. Students / Families can learn more about Michigan's Dual Enrollment opportunities by **CLICKING HERE**.

Communications (HSA, COMM 120)) **Prerequisite(s):** None

This course is a survey of communication theories and concepts related to interpersonal, small group, public speaking, mediated communication, and could include topics in mass and social media, etc. Students will learn about media and channels used to interact, the influence of

technology on those channels, and sociological, psychological, and practical applications of the communication discipline.

Placement Scores: *Reading Level 5 and Writing Level 6*

Geography (HSA, GEOG 221) **Prerequisite(s):** None

Emphasizes landforms, flora and fauna, weather and climatic elements, land forms, mass wasting, hydrology, and soils. Offers an extensive study of these forces and phenomena through lecture and laboratory exercises. This study notes the environmental and ecological interrelationships between flora and fauna, and between the physical world and human society.

Placement Scores: *Reading Level 5, Writing Level 6, and Math Level 4*

Mythology (HSA, HUMS 221) **Prerequisite(s):** None

Students will analyze a variety of mythological works, in text and other forms, from multiple regions of the world such as Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. Students will apply knowledge of the Hero's Journey and the basic functions of myth to enhance their appreciation of primary sources, individually and culturally.

Placement Scores: *Reading Level 5 and Writing Level 6*

Sociology (HSA, SOCL 120) **Prerequisite(s):** None

A survey of major theoretical perspectives, concepts, and methods of sociology. Emphasis is placed on societal transformation, social organization, culture, cultural diversity, socialization, social stratification, social institutions, and social change within a global context.

Placement Scores: *Reading Level 5*

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