

# Arrowhead High School

**UPDATED NOVEMBER 15**

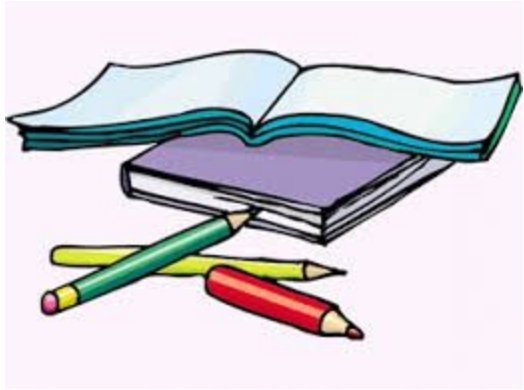
**Making Informed Choices about Grade 9**



**Class of 2023**

## Making an Informed Choice for 9th grade

- **Grade 9 Opportunities for Freshmen Students for 2019-20:**
  - AP Human Geography
  - English 9 Honors
  - English 9
  - Social Studies 9
  - **NEW English 9 and Social Studies 9 BLOCK**
  - Science 9/Biology Honors Block
  - World Languages Level 1 or 2
  
- **Math Options**
  
- **Frequently Asked Questions (including how to sign up for PreACT)**



## **English Options**

To assure all students are Career and College Ready, Arrowhead High School offers the following 3 opportunities open to all Grade 9 students for 2019-2020. All of the options students have are rigorous, connected to standards, use a variety of teaching and learning methods and adapt to students' needs.

### **OPTION ONE : Social Studies 9/English 9 BLOCK (Enriched)**

Description – The Social Studies 9/English 9 Block provides students with learning that is inquiry-based and connected through social studies and English. The curriculum takes a thematic approach. English 9 (Enriched) and Social Studies 9 (Enriched) will appear on the transcript for 2 credits each. Enrichment means that the learning environment and curriculum are augmented with guest speakers, field trips, authentic/real world application of knowledge, self-directed, collaborative in nature. Content is fully integrated to make strong cross-curricular connections.

Learning Environment – Students in Social Studies 9/English 9 Block will be learning through team teaching who create flexible use of time and space to integrate key themes using inquiry-based approaches, as well as traditional methods of learning. The standards and assessments for each subject area are blended together creating an engaging and unique approach which emphasises collaboration, community building, and personalized learning. Students meet for 84 minutes daily

#### Profile for Students Success-

Students of all ability levels will find success in Block. In particular, those students who like independence, who are curious, who think “out of the box,” who are creative, and consider themselves “self-starters “ will find this option a match.

### **OPTION TWO: English 9 Honors (self -selected)**

This course meets the requirement for graduation (English 9 is required). English 9 Honors is an intensive year-long course designed for students intending on taking AP English courses as early as sophomore year. The course will follow the framework and guidelines of the college board's Pre- AP coursework. The course provides accelerated learning of skills taught in

English 9 and English 10 including analysis and synthesis of complex fiction and nonfiction texts, writing for a variety of purposes and audiences, and informal and formal discussions and speech presentations. Students who take direction well, manage their time, commit to being prepared, and are motivated to challenging themselves with complex reading and writing will find success in this course.

\*English 9 Honors is a prerequisite for students who want to take AP English Language and Composition their sophomore year.

\*PreACT test is required: 22 in reading, 18 in English, and a Lexile score of 1300 is a strong predictor of success in Pre- AP Reading and Writing

### **OPTION THREE: English 9**

This course is required for graduation. Students enrolled in English 9 will focus on grammar skills, writing and mechanics, reading, research, and speech. The course content and teaching methods are designed to appeal to all students. Students will learn college and career skills.

#### **For More Information Contact:**

Arrowhead High School--369-3611

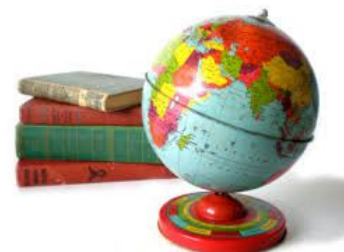
Dave Gierach - English Program Leader [gierach@arrowheadschoools.org](mailto:gierach@arrowheadschoools.org)

## **Social Studies Options**

### **OPTION ONE : Social Studies 9/English 9 Block (Enriched)**

Description– The Social Studies 9/English 9 Block provides students with learning that is inquiry-based and connected through social studies and English. The curriculum takes a thematic approach. English 9 (Enriched) and Social Studies 9 (Enriched) will appear on the transcript for 2 credits each. Enrichment means that the learning environment and curriculum are augmented with guest speakers, field trips, authentic/real world application of knowledge, self-directed, collaborative in nature. Content is fully integrated to make strong cross-curricular connections.

Learning Environment – Students in Social Studies 9/English 9 Block will be learning through team teaching who create flexible use of time and space to integrate key themes using inquiry-based approaches, as well as traditional methods of learning. The standards and assessments for each subject area are blended together creating an engaging and unique approach which emphasises collaboration,community building, and personalized learning . Students meet for 84 minutes daily.



### Profile for Students Success-

Students of all ability levels will find success in the Integrated Learning Experience. In particular, those students who like independence, who are curious, who think “out of the box,” who are creative, and consider themselves “self-starters “ will find this option a match.

### **OPTION TWO : Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography –**

AP Human Geography will meet the Social Studies credits for graduation, but **students still need to take either the AP Government and Politics or Political Science to meet graduation requirements.** Political Science will be offered online in Summer School.

AP Human Geography Description – According to the College Board, this course is “designed to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of the Earth’s surface.” Students are expected to take the AP Human Geography exam that includes both a 60-minute multiple-choice section and a 75-minute free-response writing section in May.

AP Human Geography is an appropriate college level course for capable and college ready grade 9 students. In 2017, of the 200,598 students who took the exam nationally, approximately 60% were freshmen. This is the most common AP class for Freshmen. At AHS, 85.1% of the students have passed the AP exam over the last five years (323 students taking the exam).

Learning Environment - This is a more teacher-directed environment using a national curriculum that is recognized by the College Board, and upon successful performance on the AP exam, students could earn college credit. The classroom will use more interactive lecture and discussion and focus on higher level thinking skills. Students will be expected to comprehend and write at a higher level. For example, the AP Human Geography teacher will lecture from one text while the students read from another text. In such a setting, students will need to synthesize what they read on their own and learn in class.

Profile for Success- While students of all ability levels and learning styles may benefit from this choice, those students who take direction well, complete their summer readings, manage their time, commit to being prepared by completing the required homework, readings, and writings will find the most success. In addition, students should make sure they either have study halls every day rather than every other day and /or take seven classes. Students who have found past success in the structure of school, miss less than three days each semester and really want to take these courses will do well.

An Aspire score of 430 in Reading (or 90th percentile on MAP or other standardized assessment in Reading, Advanced proficiency on the Forward exam) is an indicator that students should take the required PRE- ACT test on December 15 or January 5. To assist students in making an informed decision, **a minimum PreACT score of 22** in reading would indicate readiness for these two courses. Last year, students enrolled in AP Human Geography had an ACT Reading score average of 25.1. Furthermore, students who have a Lexile level of 1300 are considered college level readers, ready for the class. **STUDENTS MUST take the**

## PreACT to enroll in the course.

### **OPTION THREE: Social Studies 9**

Description – The classes provide all students with an opportunity to apply reading, writing, speaking, listening, research and media skills to themes/units in these two subject areas. English 9 and Social Studies 9 will appear as 2 credits each on the transcript.

Learning Environment – Students who choose the English 9 and Social Studies 9 will meet daily for 40 minutes. The classes will focus on college and career readiness skills. The classroom instruction will involve note taking, reading, discussion, writing, research and projects. There will be four writing assessments, one each quarter, that will connect the learning for students and be applied in each course.

Profile for success- Students of all abilities and learning styles will find success with this choice. Students who are used to a more traditional learning environment but want to see how their learning and work is connected through two subject areas will benefit from this choice.

#### **For More Information Contact:**

Arrowhead High School--369-3611, Shanna Hechimovich- Social Studies Program Leader-  
[hechimovich@arrowheadschoools.org](mailto:hechimovich@arrowheadschoools.org)



### **Science 9 Options**

There are two options for Science for the 2018-19 school year: Science 9/Biology Honors Block and Science 9.

#### **OPTION ONE: Science 9/Biology Honors Block** **(Meets 2 Life Science and 2 Physical Science credits required for graduation)**

Description - The Science 9/Biology Honors Block is an opportunity for motivated students with high ability and strong interest in science to complete

Science 9 and biology during their freshman year. The Science 9 portion of the course places a heavy emphasis on preparation for chemistry and physics, but also includes topics in earth and space science. The biology portion has units in classification, ecology, biochemistry, cell structure and function, genetics, and evolution.

Learning Environment - Throughout the course, students will be required to develop a deeper understanding of concepts at a more abstract level. In addition, students will be required to design experiments and develop data collection procedures. They will use this data to develop models of scientific phenomena and will be asked to apply mathematics at a more advanced level. The course will meet daily for 84 minutes.

Profile for Student Success - Academically motivated students - those who take direction well,

complete their readings, manage their time, and commit to being prepared by completing the required homework, readings, writings and lab reports - will find the most success. It is especially important that students are very capable and interested in science. Students should also be advanced in math. The recommendation is that students are concurrently enrolled in geometry at a minimum. Students should meet or exceed a score of 22 on the PreACT in each of the science, math and reading sections of the test as an indicator of success in Science 9/Biology Honors Block. Students who have scored in the 90th percentile in the math and science portions of any standardized test should consider taking the PreACT.

### **OPTION TWO: Science 9 Meets the 2 credits of Physical Science Required for Graduation**

**Description** - This course has been designed to develop the thinking processes and skills needed for science literacy, while emphasizing connections between science and real life. Students will participate in laboratory investigations and projects with the purpose of exploring physics, earth science, space science, and chemistry.

**Learning Environment** - Students who choose Science 9 will meet every other day for 84 minutes. The classroom instruction will involve note taking, reading, discussion, writing, labs, research and projects. An important aspect of this course is the development of the science skills that will be an essential foundation for biology and additional science courses.

**Profile for success**- Students of all abilities and learning styles will find success with this choice. Critical thinking skills will focus on all levels of thinking. The class will focus on college and career necessary skills. Students will be taking biology in Grade 10.

#### **For More Information Contact:**

Brian Corry, Science Program Leader at Arrowhead High School 369-3611 ext. 4707 or [corry@arrowheadschoool.org](mailto:corry@arrowheadschoool.org)



### **Informed Choices for Strong Mathematics Students entering Grade 9**

#### **Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry**

This course is for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students with a strong aptitude and enthusiasm for learning mathematics. Students in this course sequence will be able to complete 2 semesters of college AP Calculus and AP Statistics by the end of the 12 grade. A teacher recommendation is required in order to sign up for this course. Students who enroll should earn an A in geometry.

#### **Advanced Algebra**

This course is for students who have been identified with strong abilities in math and expect to take AP Calculus AB and AP Statistics by the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. AP Calculus AB and AP

Statistics earn students one semester of college credit each. Advanced Algebra emphasizes algebraic expressions and forms, especially linear and quadratic, powers and roots, and functions based on these concepts. Students study logarithmic, trigonometric, polynomial and other special functions both for their abstract properties and for modeling real-world situations. A graphing calculator is required. It is strongly recommended that students have earned a grade of A in algebra and/or a B or higher in geometry in order to take this math course.

### **Geometry/Advanced Algebra Block**

This course is for students who have been identified with strong abilities in math and expect to take AP Calculus AB and AP Statistics by the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. AP Calculus AB and AP Statistics earn students one semester of college credit each. This course meets two periods per day for one year (Geometry in first semester and Advanced Algebra in second semester). An A in Algebra is strongly recommended.

#### **For More Information Contact:**

Dave Olenchek, Math Program Leader at 369-3611 ext. 3715 or [olenchek@arrowheadschoools.org](mailto:olenchek@arrowheadschoools.org)

### **World Languages Options**

World Languages offers the following languages: Chinese (Mandarin), French, German and Spanish.

Most freshmen either take level 1 or level 2 of a World Language. In order to begin in level 2, students must pass a placement test administered in the spring. Spanish teachers in the feeder schools will sign students up to take the test. For other languages, please contact the following teachers to set up a placement test:

Chinese: Wei Yao, [yao@arrowheadschoools.org](mailto:yao@arrowheadschoools.org)

French: Ramona Armour, [armour@arrowheadschoools.org](mailto:armour@arrowheadschoools.org)

German: Beth Schueth, [schueth@arrowheadschoools.org](mailto:schueth@arrowheadschoools.org)

Spanish : Jeanne Psket, [psket@arrowheadschoools.org](mailto:psket@arrowheadschoools.org)

When students place into level 2, they are highly discouraged from repeating level 1, as the material starts from the very beginning and likely will be too easy.

There is not a graduation requirement for World Languages; however, some universities have acceptance requirements and most universities value successful study of world languages, especially advanced levels. Students are encouraged to check university websites or contact admissions offices of the universities for which they are interested in applying.

University of Wisconsin system schools offer placement tests in which students can “test out” of certain language courses in college. Then, if they take the course in which they place and earn a B or higher, they earn credit not only for that course, but also for all the courses that precede it in the sequence. Through this program, students can earn a maximum of 16





retroactive credits *per foreign language* for language study completed in high school, at no additional cost to the student.

Additionally, at many universities, students can earn an additional 3 credits beyond the 16 retroactive credits for an AP Language and Culture course. Arrowhead currently offers AP Spanish Language and Culture, and successfully offers the AP test for a few exceptional students each year in Chinese, French and German.

Because of these opportunities in college, students benefit from taking the most advanced courses offered in high school and are encouraged to build their proficiency in world languages.

**For More Information Contact:** Jeanne Psket, World Languages Program Leader at 369-3611 ext. 3137 or [psket@arrowheadschoools.org](mailto:psket@arrowheadschoools.org)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What does it mean that the honors program is self-selected?

- Students and parents make 9th grade course choices using data and other indicators to help guide their decisions.

### 2. How do I make an informed choice? When do I need to choose? Who can help me?

- Students should always start with parents, teachers, G/T coordinator and counselors from the K-8 school.
- Students should consider personal motivation when making course decisions.
- You should consider taking the PRE- ACT test on December 15 or January 5 at AHS South Campus. **This is required for those students considering AP Human Geography, English 9 Honors and also for Science 9/Biology Honors Block.**
- Students sign up for courses after January freshmen orientation.

### 3. Are students required to take the PreACT test if they are considering AP Human AP Geography/English 9 Honors and Science 9/Biology Honors Block?

- **Yes.** If you want to take these classes, students **must** take the PreACT test. There is no cut score for AP Human Geography. However, a PRE-ACT reading score of 22 or greater and/or a Lexile score of 1300(Advanced reader) will indicate that the student has a 50 % chance of getting a 3 or better on the AP exam
- For students interested in Science 9/Biology Honors Block, students must take the PreACT and meet the following criteria for optimum placement.
  - English > or = to **18**
  - Science > or = to **22**
  - Math > or = to **22**
  - Reading > or = to **22 and/ or Lexile score of 1300**

#### 4. What is the format for the PreACT?

- A PreACT test will be given December 15 or January 5. Students need to report by 7:45 am to South Campus and are expected to be finished by 11:30. More details will follow once registration takes place.
- All students must be preregistered for the PreACT test.
- Registration is online- AHS Website -front page starting October 22
- For the December 15th date, registration must be completed by December 7. For the January 5 date, registration must be completed by December 21.
- The following information is needed to complete the online registration form:
  - School Name (K-8)
  - Name of student including last, first and middle initial
  - Birthday including day, month and year
  - Email address
  - Phone number
  - Home address
  - Test date – December 15 or January 5
- Results from this test will be distributed to students as soon as the scores are received (approx. two weeks after testing) Staff will be available to answer questions as part of the freshmen orientation in January.
- The cost of the test is \$13.00- please bring a check made out to “Arrowhead High School” on the day of the test

#### 5. What if I cannot take the PreACT on the dates available?

- If you have taken an ACT already, send the scores to Sue Casetta via mail or email.
- If you cannot make the PreACT, you can take the ACT on a national test date. Registration would take place through ACT website-and then scores should be sent to Sue Casetta at Arrowhead High School.
- In case of inclement weather on either December 15 or January 5, snow day makeup will be on January 12.

#### 6. Is the AP Human Geography open to all grade levels?

- No- this is a Freshman only AP class

#### 7. Can a 9th grade student handle an AP class?

- Yes. AP Human Geography is a college level course for capable 9th graders. A well organized, motivated and high level nonfiction reader will be able to handle the course. However, students should be prepared to balance total school schedule with outside commitments. It is recommended that students have one daily study hall. At AHS, an average of 85.1% of students pass the AP Human Geo exam with a 3 or better. These

students (all Freshmen) met the parent informed choice benchmarks for readiness.

**8. What is the difference between Honors and AP courses?**

- An AP (Advanced Placement) course is based on a national curriculum and exam. AP is college level work and students can earn college credits if they pass the exam at the end of the year.
- An Honors course is offered at the local level with curriculum developed at the local high school. All Honors courses will be different from high school to high school.

**9. If a student does not take an Honors class, can the student still take AP courses later?**

- Of course. No matter what courses freshmen take, they can always take an AP course later.

**10. What happens if I make the wrong choice?**

- If AP Human Geography is too difficult, individual circumstances may be considered, but it is rare that a student would be switched out of the class. Please note that there is summer reading for students who enroll in AP Human Geography or Honors English 9.
- Social Studies 9/English 9 Block is designed for students to be enrolled for the entire year. Due to the nature of integration, content is not taught in exactly the same order.
- Careful consideration must be made based on the choices available. There is a strong likelihood that space availability in other options will be very limited.
- Students can drop or add - up to 6 days at the start of the school year/semester.

**11. What choices do students have for 10th grade?**

**English**

- English 10
- AP English Language and Composition
- Western Civilization/English 10 Block

**Social Studies**

- U.S. History or AP U.S. History
- Western Civilization/English 10 Block
- AP Government and Politics
- AP European History

**Science**

- Biology is the typical 10th grade course for Science. In addition some students choose to also take Chemistry or Physics;
- Students who complete the Science 9/Biology Honors Block may choose to take Honors Chemistry, Chemistry, Physics, or AP Physics 1. Students who expect to take AP Physics 1 will need to be concurrently enrolled in Functions for Math. This means

students should complete Advanced Algebra in the 9th grade.

**12. What are the requirements for graduation for Class of 2023?**

- Social Studies 9 and English 9, Block and English 9 Honors will meet graduation requirements. Students who take AP Human Geography must still fulfill the government graduation requirement by either taking AP Government and Politics or Political Science during high school. Political Science will be offered online during summer school(not for incoming Freshmen).

**13. What is the difference between Science 9/Biology Honors Block and Science 9?**

- In general the students in the Science 9/Biology Honors Block will be more accelerated, and the course will be more challenging due to an emphasis on the following:
  - Higher level of mathematics
  - Higher level of critical thinking skills
  - Greater difficulty of lab activities and extension
  - Double periods of classes daily for the year whereas Science 9 is 2 periods every other day

**Who should I contact if I have questions?**

- Questions about registration online for the PreACT - Contact Kim Dion-dion@arrowheadschoools.org -369-3633 Ext 4113
- Sue Casetta-Director of Learning, 262-369-3611 ext. 4204, casetta@arrowheadschoools.org
- Visit Arrowheadschoools.org web page and follow the links under course selection