

# Welcome to WCHS!



**New Grade 10 Student  
Orientation Handbook 2024**



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## *PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE*

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Welcome to Grade 10 and your official start to High School. This is truly a new beginning for each of you as you enter Grade 10 and begin your journey towards graduation. You will definitely discover differences in Grade 10. Staff will treat you as young adults, as you are given more responsibility and accountability for your learning. One of the most important parts of being a young adult is decision-making. As you consider what your high school program will look like, we will partner with you on your academic journey for learner success. The choices you make today can affect you for years to come. We encourage you to listen to and take advice from your parents/guardians and teachers.

As you begin your high school experience, be sure to explore the many opportunities that are offered in and outside of class. From archery, golf, cross country, football, volleyball, basketball, curling, badminton, track and field, wrestling, drama, choir, jazz band, student council, work experience and more; there are so many ways to become involved in your school. These experiences allow you to meet new people, make new friends and enjoy your time at school.

Be prepared to follow the expectations that the school places on you, the student. Be ready to learn each and every day, be open to work with the staff, be respectful, and be accountable for your success. The staff at WCHS are here to support you as you navigate your high school years and prepare to transition into the next stage of your life. We are excited to work with you throughout your High School career and to see each one of you walk across the stage as you enter the next phase of your journey.

Karen Elgert  
Principal

# **ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM PLANNING**

Promotion to Grade 10 is determined by the administration and staff of WCHS or by the principal of your junior high school according to the policies of the School District and the regulations of Alberta Learning ...

**BUT**



PLACEMENT in high school, particularly in Grade 10 courses, is based on your Grade 9 school marks and your results on the Grade 9 Provincial Achievement Test. Your marks in each major subject area will determine which Grade 10 courses you may take...

**BECAUSE**



It is frustrating to be in a course that is beyond your level of achievement, and it is not engaging to take a course that is too easy for you...

**THEREFORE**



This Student Orientation Handbook will serve as a guide to you and your parents in determining which grade 10 courses you should select. You will also be given a link to the Registration Guide that describes each high school course. Our Success Coaches will provide you with more details. Charts on the pages near the back of this handbook will help you decide which courses are best for you. Student Services at WCHS will be working with each grade 9 student to help complete these charts. Once they have gone over these sheets with you, you may complete the Course Selection Sheet.



# HOW DO I GET INTO HIGH SCHOOL?

EASY AS 1, 2, 3



BY ....



passing Grade nine ★

**or**

receiving the recommendation of your grade 9 school principal ★

**and then**

registering in the right high school courses for you ★

YOU NEED TO KNOW ....

1. You need to know that Grade 9 courses need to be successfully completed in order to take certain Grade 10 academic courses. The recommendation sheet is included in this handbook. Grade 9 teachers will complete one for you so you can see the level of academics that is right for you.
2. You need to know about the Grade 10 option courses. These are briefly described in your Registration Guide.

Each year there will be an updated Registration Guide – available online at [www.wetaskiwincomp.ca](http://www.wetaskiwincomp.ca) . Go over it with your parents so they know about the courses and routes to graduation too.

3. You need to know how to select your courses for Grade 10 and how many to take. Student Services will help you with this important decision. We are helping you by providing the materials in this handbook. Once the entire decision making process is complete and you have discussed this with your parents, you will complete the course planner and then complete registration on PowerSchool or Google Form.

# **THE REGISTRATION PROCESS**



- For WCHS Grade 9 students pre-registration will take place during the third week of **APRIL**. Administrators and Success Coaches will work with each student through this process.
- For Sacred Heart Grade 9 Students pre-registration will take place during the third week of **APRIL**. Administrators and Success Coaches will work with Sacred Heart School through this process.
- Timetables will be finalized in PowerSchool based on what students select. Student Services will meet with any students that may require any changes. At this point, course selections are final. If there is a serious **problem or error in your timetable you should see the Student Services**.
- When your timetable is completed it can viewed through your PowerSchool Account
- Students are expected to complete their high school requirements within three years and should plan accordingly.
- Fall Registration dates will be posted on the WCHS website.
  - [www.wetaskiwincomp.ca](http://www.wetaskiwincomp.ca)

# School F E E S

Depending on the courses taken, the fees are approximately \$50.00. Fees are somewhat higher in option subjects. Yearbook costs (approx. \$40) are not included in the above mentioned prices.

The fees will be calculated at the end of August, prior to school start up, and parents will receive an email when the fees are ready to be paid. Online payment information is found on our website ([www.wetaskiwincomp.ca](http://www.wetaskiwincomp.ca)).

## **HOW DO I COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL?**



### HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS

High School Credits are the unit of measure used to determine the amount of work accomplished for each course. High School core classes such as English, Math, Science, and Social are a five-credit course that run all semester. Most option courses such as CTS will be three-credit courses which run for only a quarter.

Students in CTS courses earn credits by completing a series of one-credit modules. Students who complete each course or module with a final grade of 50% or better will earn the associated credit(s). Grade 10 students must register in a program totaling at least 40 credits.

### MINIMUM CREDIT LOADS:

Our goal is to have students enter their Grade 12 year with at least 75 credits.

#### Grade 10

- ◆ Students must register in a full program (approximately 40 credits).

#### Grade 11

- ◆ Students should carry a full program but Grade 11 students that are on track (have 40 or more credits entering Grade 11) are eligible to take one spare.

#### Grade 12

- ◆ Students in Grade 12 may take more than one spare if they are meeting graduation requirements.

During a block in which they have no scheduled class, students may choose to be away from the school, or be in school in the learning commons, atrium, or the cafeteria – NOT in the halls.

## PREREQUISITES

A prerequisite is a course that must be taken before a more advanced course can be taken. You must earn at least 50% in the prerequisite before you can take the next course. For example, English 10-1 (Grade 10) is the prerequisite for English 20-1 (Grade 11).

## CTS COURSES

In your Registration Guide you will see several pages of courses called Career and Technology Studies (CTS). CTS are delivered through Modules. In WCHS we bundle modules to make the described courses. Your credits and prerequisites, however, are based on the successful completion of the individual modules. To know if you have a prerequisite you must determine if you have completed prerequisite modules rather than specific courses.

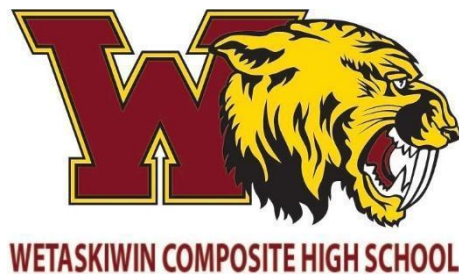
GRADUATION: WCHS offers three programs to our students:

1. High School Diploma: Students must earn 100 credits.
2. Certificate of High School Achievement: Students must earn 80 credits.
3. Certificate of High School Completion: Students complete an Individualized Program.

To qualify for a High School Diploma students must acquire a minimum of 100 credits. To qualify for a Knowledge & Employability (K & E) Certificate students must acquire a minimum of 80 credits. There are also certain courses you must have passed – refer to Pages 19 & 20 for specific requirements. In order to avoid confusion or problems it is very important for each individual student to keep a record of all of the high school credits earned (see the “Program Planner” page in this handbook).

We remind our students that while we are here to help, it is each student’s responsibility to ensure graduation requirements are met. Please see your counsellor or success coach regarding graduation requirements and post-secondary requirements.

NOTE: A High School Diploma does not guarantee entrance to post-secondary programs - see your counsellor or success coach for assistance with career planning.





# **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is **so** important to be successful at school.

Regular Daily Attendance = Achievement

- ◆ Semester One: August 30 to January 30 (Quarter 1 & 2)  
Final grades in January
  - ◆ Semester Two: January 31 to June 26 (Quarter 3 & 4)  
Final grades in June
- 

What happens to students who have poor attendance?

This frequently leads to students not being successful in a course which means that they would not be able to take certain courses in Grade 10. For example, if students do not pass Science 9, they are not eligible to take Science 10. They must enroll in Science 14.

Note: Attendance is the number one factor for students not completing High School.

What is the Attendance Policy in WCHS?

Details of the Attendance Policy will be explained to students during the first week in September. If students or parents have questions regarding their attendance they should speak to the Office. If parents have questions about the Attendance Policy, they should speak to the Administration.

- ◆ If you are absent your parents/guardians must contact the office or enter into Safe Arrival through your Powerschool or email [wc@wrps1.ca](mailto:wc@wrps1.ca). Please indicate students' full name and date of absence (Full day/AM or PM).
- ◆ Student Attendance can be viewed in *PowerSchool*.
- ◆ Unexplained absences result in a phone call by the *School Messenger*.

# **STUDENT SERVICES**

The WCHS Student Service Department is set up to support our students along their path towards graduation. Our Student Services Department consists of:

- Counselors
  - Help you with social/emotional, educational, vocational matters.
- Success Coaches
  - Help you with any academic needs, timetables and career planning.
- Indigenous Support Worker
  - Support our Indigenous students on their road to graduation
- Inclusion Coach
  - Works closely with teachers in supporting student needs.

## **PowerSchool**



WCHS has fully integrated PowerSchool into our school. PowerSchool is used to view marks, attendance, and receive final grades. All new students receive login information in the fall. Students and Parents will need to be able to access and log into PowerSchool on a regular basis.



## WCHS EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

WCHS offers a wide variety of extra-curricular activities for students to choose from. If you want to get the most out of your years in high school – in terms of fun and success – then jump right in and get involved with something that interests you! The sooner you get to know people and feel a part of something, the sooner you will feel 'at home' in high school. To learn about the various clubs and activities listen to the announcements.

Here are some of the activities that are offered:

### ATHLETICS - COMPETITIVE TEAMS

Fall: Cross-Country Running  
Football  
Golf  
Volleyball



Winter: Basketball  
Curling  
Wrestling  
Archery

Spring: Badminton  
Track & Field



All students are encouraged to participate in various activities throughout the year.

### Possible Student Council Activities

Executive Meetings  
Committees on Jackets/Rings  
Dress-up Days  
Taste of WCHS

Possible Special Events – Ice Cream Eating, Rodeo Days, Assemblies, Pep Rallies  
Awards Night

Choir  
Drama  
Drumming



Art Club  
GSA  
Archery

NOTE: If you would like to organize a specific club (listed or not) discuss your idea with a staff member, who may agree to supervise.

### Possible Special Events



Music Trips

Career Days

Field Trips

### Student Council

The WCHS Student Council supervises the extracurricular activities of approximately 850 students.

The Council of Wetaskiwin Composite High School Students' Association consists of:

- ◆ President
- ◆ Vice President
- ◆ Secretary
- ◆ Treasurer



School Colors: Burgundy, Gold and White  
School Logo: WCHS Sabre  
School Motto: Veritas Vincit (Truth Conquers)  
School Mascot: Sabre

**To get involved -**

**Listen for Announcements and check Social Media**

## **General Information For Students**

In order to maintain a positive and safe learning environment a number of general expectations have been established that all students are required to follow.

1. Regular attendance is required. Notification from parents is expected if students will not be in school. Expectation of being in class on time.
2. Students can eat lunch and snacks in the school cafeteria, atrium, and certain designated classrooms. Students are reminded that all garbage must be cleaned up and disposed of.
3. Cell phones are not allowed to be used in class unless permitted by the teacher. They are permitted to be used in other areas of the school.
4. Hoodies, hats and bandanas are to be removed upon entering the school building.
5. Backpacks are to be placed in lockers upon entering the school.
6. Food or drinks will not be allowed in the computer labs, or gymnasiums. Teachers will make individual decisions about allowing food or drinks in their classroom.
7. WCHS has a “Zero Tolerance” policy on violence and vandalism. Fighting, uttering threats, intimidation, or initiating vandalism at a school will not be tolerated. Suspensions/expulsions may result from such actions.
8. Students found with, or under the influence of, alcohol or drugs will be suspended immediately and a hearing will be arranged for the students, parents, and school administration to determine the academic future of the student.
9. Smoking / Vaping and smokeless tobacco are NOT allowed to be used on school property and their use at any time is also discouraged.



## **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

1. If the student registering has a medical condition of which the teachers should be aware, please ensure that their teachers and Inclusion Coach are notified. If the condition is ongoing each teacher needs to be informed at the beginning of each semester.
2. Please notify student services of conditions or circumstances that will have a significant impact on the attendance and achievement. Students are encouraged to seek assistance as early as possible if they are experiencing difficulties, so that steps can be taken to resolve problems before it is too late.
3. If the registering student requires bussing to school from out of town, contact the Director of Transportation at (780)352-6018. You will be required to give your land location.
4. If a student is away from a class, parents/guardians must contact the office or enter into Safe Arrival through your Powerschool or email [wc@wrps1.ca](mailto:wc@wrps1.ca). Please indicate students' full name and date of absence (Full day/AM or PM).
5. Students may leave the school at noon and during spares. Students are not given direct supervision while on spares, but will be directed to designated areas if in the building.
6. Protected Students: In rare instances a child may be designated as "Protected" if a Court has issued a restraining order under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act, The Domestic Relations Act, The Divorce Act, or the Young Offenders Act. If the student registering is a Protected Student, you must discuss the situation with a school administrator.





# Wetaskiwin Composite High School

## ALBERTA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

High School Diploma Requirement 100 Credits	Wetaskiwin Composite High School Courses That Meet This Requirement
<b>English Language Arts 30-level</b>	English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2 Humanities 30 (if offered)
<b>Social Studies 30-level</b>	Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2 Humanities 30 (if offered)
<b>Math 20-level</b>	Math 20-1, Math 20-2, Math 20-3
<b>Science 20-level</b>	Science 20, Biology 20, Chemistry 20, Physics 20, Science 24
<b>Physical Education 10</b>	A minimum of 3 credits required in either Active Living (3) or PE 10 (5)
<b>Career and Life Management</b>	CALM 20
<b>10 credits from courses in the following areas (options)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Career &amp; Technology Studies (CTS)</li> <li>• Fine Arts</li> <li>• Second Language</li> <li>• Physical Education 20/30</li> </ul>	<b>CTS:</b> Construction 10, Fabrication 10, Mechanics 10, Cosmetology 10, Foods 10, Commercial Kitchen 10, Communications 10, Design 10, Sports Performance 20 (Basketball, Volleyball, Hockey or Football) <b>Fine Arts:</b> Art 10, Drama 10, Instrumental Music 10 <b>Second Language:</b> French 10-3Y, Cree Language and Culture 10 <b>Physical Education:</b> 20 and 30 level Note: Not all ADLC modules fall into these categories
<b>10 credits of coursework at the 30-level (excluding ELA &amp; SS)</b>	Art 30, Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Choral Music 30, Communications 30, Commercial Kitchen 30, Cosmetology 30, Design 30, Drama 30, Fabrication 30, French 30-3Y, Foods 30, Mechanics 30, Instrumental Music 30, Math 30-1, Math 30-2, Math 30-3, Math 31, PE 30, Physics 30, RAP 35, Work Experience 35, any modules at the 30-level
<b>54 Other Credits</b>	Any core subjects leading to the prescribed 30-level Any additional core subjects (towards post-secondary) Any additional options/modules
<b>Total of 100+ credits</b>	Obtained from the combinations above *Note: Not all courses required for a high school diploma meet the qualifications for university or trades. Determine necessary requirements early.



# Wetaskiwin Composite High School

## ALBERTA HIGH SCHOOL KNOWLEDGE AND EMPLOYABILITY REQUIREMENTS

High School Certificate of Achievement Requirements 80 credits	Wetaskiwin Composite High School Courses That Meet This Requirement
<b>English Language Arts 30-level</b>	English 30-4 or English 20-2
<b>Social Studies 20-level</b>	Social Studies 20-4 or Social Studies 10-2
<b>Math 20-level</b>	Math 20-4 or Math 10-3
<b>Science 20-level</b>	Science 20-4 or Science 14
<b>Physical Education 10</b>	A minimum of 3 credits required in either Active Living (3) or PE 10 (5)
<b>Career and Life Management</b>	CALM 20
<b>5 credits in:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>30-level Knowledge and Employability Occupational Courses</b></li> <li style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></li> <li>● <b>30-Level Occupational CTS courses</b></li> </ul>	Career and Technology Studies (CTS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Commercial Kitchen 30</li> <li>● Construction 30</li> <li>● Cosmetology 30</li> <li>● Design 30</li> <li>● Fabrication 30</li> <li>● Foods 30</li> <li>● Mechanics 30</li> </ul>
<b>5 credits in: Work Experience 35 or RAP 35</b>	5 credits = 125 hours of volunteer or paid work
<b>44 other credits</b>	Any courses leading to the required level above Any courses not listed above that WCHS offers
<b>Total of 80+ credits</b>	All credits earned in the Knowledge and Employability Program are transferable to the 100 credits needed towards a High School Diploma

For students working towards their High School Diploma following the completion of a Knowledge and Employability Certificate, the following courses are further required:

- English 30-2
- Social 20-2
- Social 30-2
- Math 20-3 (often completed while completing K & E Certificate)
- Science 24 (often completed while completing K & E Certificate)
- Total of 100+ credits



# Scholarships

It is **never too early** to begin familiarizing yourself with available scholarships. Several are based on academic achievement but many others are based on leadership, community involvement, athletics, clubs, financial need, apprenticeship, etc...

Start preparing in Grade 10 and be rewarded for continuing your education after high school.

**Don't miss out!** Think of it as a "part time job" when you research and apply for them.

**Grade 10** academic achievement has a **value of up to \$400.00!** The "Rutherford Scholarship" is not a competitive scholarship, if you meet the criteria, you can be awarded the scholarship.

## **Alexander Rutherford High School Achievement Scholarship**

Over 9,000 scholarships are available to recognize and reward exceptional achievement at the high school level and to encourage students to continue their studies. The scholarships are awarded to students achieving a minimum average of 75.0% in 5 designated subjects in Grades 10, 11 and 12. The scholarships have a value of \$300 - 400 for Grade 10, \$500 - 800 for Grade 11, and \$700 -1300 for Grade 12 for a total value of up to \$2500. Applicants must be enrolled full-time in a post-secondary program of at least one semester in length or be an apprenticeship student.

(Alberta Scholarship and Bursary Programs)

Go to [www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships) for more information.

Many more scholarships are available.

Check out: [www.alis.gov.ab.ca/LearningClicks/scholarshipdbsearch.asp](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/LearningClicks/scholarshipdbsearch.asp)  
[www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com)  
[www.studentawards.ca](http://www.studentawards.ca)

Each post-secondary school has their own scholarships that can be investigated at their website

