

Wahkiakum High School Graduation Requirements

September 10, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This letter is being sent to all WHS students to communicate to families the state testing requirements for Washington State students. These requirements will have an impact on some student schedules during their time at WHS. In particular, the current legislation and direction of math reform at the state-level can be confusing to families and students. I want to help clarify the current mandates as they relate to your student. So please place this letter in a safe place!

The following state requirements are in place for your student:

1. **Successfully satisfy the course credit requirements for WHS.** Our counselor, Mr. Harmon, will be continually monitoring this requirement each quarter.
2. **Meet standard on both the a) Reading and b) Writing High School Proficiency (HSPE) Exams.** These were formerly called the WASL tests. Over time these tests will likely become online tests administered at school.
3. **Meet standard on the Science HSPE test (grade 10 and later only, this is new!).**
4. **Meet standard on the Math HSPE test.** There are differing mandates depending on grade:
 - a. **Grades 11&12:** Meet standard OR take math each year after and pass those classes.
 - b. **Grades 9&10 & beyond:** Meet standard on BOTH Algebra 1 & Geometry "End of Course (EOC) Assessments. These are new beginning this spring.
5. **Completing a High School & Beyond Plan/Project** through Advisory class. This is currently done through an assembled portfolio & presentation during the student's four years.

Please note that passing classes is critical in math as graduation will depend on both taking and passing math classes during the junior & senior years if the math HSPE requirement is not satisfied.

As you can see, the stakes are high for our students. It is critical that students and families understand these requirements. If you would like clarification, please contact Mr. Harmon or our office for help. Our teachers will be working to best address the state standards that optimize your student's learning towards these assessments. Please continue to encourage your student to take challenging courses throughout their full four years, especially in the areas above. Just as important is solid attendance. Whenever possible, please limit appointments, vacations, and other absences as seat-time for your student is critical. Time is precious during your student's high school experience!

Again, please feel free to contact us with questions. Also enclosed is information regarding the Healthy Youth Survey for Grade 10 & 12 students only. This test will be administered later in October. As you'll note, although this survey is key to assessing the health and habits of our students, you may contact our office to "opt your student out" of the testing. Thank you for your continued support of your student.

Sincerely,

Dan Casler
Principal, Wahkiakum High School
Wahkiakum School District