

Lesson 1

High School and Beyond Planning Guide for 2012

Please print the Planning Guide and then read the tutorial.

Registration is easy if you understand your graduation requirements and if you plan for your future goals.

The Planning Guide is used to keep track of your high school credits. This form will help you keep track of the requirements you have met and which ones you still need to complete. Each line indicates a semester, or .5 credit requirement. Remember that it is your responsibility to know your credit status and to register for the classes necessary to meet your graduation requirements! Let's review each requirement.

You must take an English class each semester that you are in high school. You need a total of 4.0 credits of English to graduate.

Northwest studies must be completed sometime between 7th grade and 12th grade. If you took the class in middle school you have met the requirement. Students who have taken a state history course in another state between 7th and 12th grade may satisfy this requirement by showing the transcript identifying the course to the PCFC registrar. Those who have not met the requirement must take it at some point between 10th grade and 12th grade either as a class or through an internet or correspondence course.

You must also take 3.0 credits of social studies including World Studies, European Studies and American Studies.

3.0 credits of math are required to graduate. Students who would like to apply to a four year college need to complete a minimum of three years of math including Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II. Some colleges recommend 4.0 credits of math in high school.

You will also need 2.0 credits of science to graduate. Some colleges recommend more. Be sure to check the college website for information about admission requirements.

You are also required to take 1.5 credits of PE. If you participate on a sport team you can have .25 credit waived for up to two different seasons. Or, if you are not an athlete, and participate in 75 hours of athletic lessons a semester, you may apply for Outside Credit. See your counselor for details. If you participate on a sport team or do Outside Lessons you are limited to earning a maximum of .5 PE credit. The additional 1.0 PE credit must be earned through the PE classes offered at PCFC, Issaquah, or Skyline.

For example: Let's say that you participated on the swimming team and on the tennis team. You will get to waive .25 credit for each sport, a total of .5 PE credit waived for your high school career. You will still need to earn an additional 1.0 PE credit in PE classes at the high school between 10th grade and 12th grade.

.5 credit of health is required for graduation. Most students take it in the 10th grade. For students choosing future Advanced Placement classes or International Baccalaureate classes, they may want to take the district online course that is offered each semester and every summer. The curriculum is challenging and written for 10th graders. The course costs \$300.00. Applications for the course are available in the PCFC counseling office. Additional information is posted on the Issaquah School District website.

1.0 credit of fine arts is required to graduate. Some colleges require art, drama or music. Be sure to check the college website for specifics.

1.0 credit of occupational education is needed. Occupational education classes are those in which you learn and practice skills that would be used in the work place. Some examples of Oc.Ed. credit are Graphic Design I, Journalistic Writing, and Technical Drawing. Health and software technology are each counted as .5 credit of this requirement. Students who took the software technology test and passed it will meet the technology graduation requirement but will not earn Oc.Ed. credit for the course.

Any credits that you earn beyond your required credits goes into the elective category. Credits earned in World Language, Guided Study, Algebra I Lab, and Improving Literacy also go in the elective category.

You will need to earn 22.0 credits to graduate. Those of you who pass all six of your classes for four years will earn 24.0 credits. Any 9th grader who does not pass a semester of English, World Studies, Math or Science, must make up the course prior to starting his/her 10th grade year. Options for make up classes include Night Academy which is offered in March, Summer School and Federal Way Internet Academy.

Now,

Let's talk about equivalency credits.

Some classes may count for more than one graduation requirement. For example, Graphic Design is a .5 credit course but it is counted as an occupational education requirement, and a fine arts requirement. Let's look at your handout and I'll tell you how this works. On the graduation requirement section, you get to put a check on one occupational education line and a check on one fine arts line. You will need to look at the equivalency information page of your course catalog to help you clarify your classes and the credit requirements you will earn. You also need to know that some equivalency fine arts classes do not meet college entrance requirements. College bound students should check their college

admission requirements to identify the specific fine arts classes that are accepted.

Now look under #2 of the planning guide. Students must meet standard on the Reading WASL and Writing WASL to graduate. 10th graders must also take the Math WASL and Science WASL. Those that do not meet standard in Math will be required to take, and pass, a Math class each year they are in high school.

Please turn your planning form to the backside. It's time to start thinking about your academic and career goals. Please write your top three Career Interests.

Look at the 5th year plan and put a check in the box that applies to you. About two-thirds of you will apply to universities so you will need to pay special attention to college admission requirements. You can find these requirements listed in your course catalog. The other third of you will pursue educational and training opportunities, such as apprenticeships, military programs, technical college, or community college. It's important that you choose an educational program that will give you the appropriate skills needed for your career.

Issaquah and Skyline offer some special courses that may be of interest to you. AP, Advanced Placement courses, are offered at Issaquah and IB, International Baccalaureate courses, are offered at Skyline. Both schools offer Running Start for juniors and seniors. These classes are taken at the community college and count for high school and community college credit. AP and IB are both rigorous college preparatory programs that are available in your junior and senior years.

NEVAC is a program for juniors and seniors who want to learn specific technical skills such as cosmetology, fire and life safety, culinary arts and carpentry. Students usually travel to another school and take the classes for two hours.

If you are planning on applying to a four year college you will need to take the SAT test or ACT test for admission. You will need to check your college website for the specific test that they require. The ACT tests reading, writing, math and science. The SAT tests reading, writing and math skills. Information about testing schedules, locations and fees are available on the testing websites, and in the Issaquah or Skyline career centers. Many students will take practice tests in 10th grade. Some students take informal tests offered by the PTA. These are usually offered on Saturday mornings and cost a minimal fee. After the students take the test they get the results and information about their strengths and weaknesses. They can then use this information to work on improving their skills. Some 10th graders also take the formal PSAT test which is offered once a year, in October, by the Collegeboard testing organization. This is the only test that an 11th grade student can take to become a National Merit Scholar. 10th graders can take the PSAT for practice.

The boxes on the right side of the planning guide are used to write in your extra curricular activities, community service and enrichment plans. This information is often used in a college application. Writing these things down can also give you a sense of accomplishment.

