

West Michigan Lutheran High School
Academic Guide 2016-2017

Nurturing and Preparing Its Students for Christ-Centered Lives

www.wmlhs.org



Non Discriminatory Policy

West Michigan Lutheran High School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the high school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other high school administered programs.

High schools of the Synod may give preference in admissions to members of Synodical congregations and to members of other Lutheran church bodies.

School Mission Statement

The mission of West Michigan Lutheran High School is *'to nurture and prepare its students for Christ-centered lives*

Implementation of this Mission

Based upon and driven by the principles and doctrine of the Lutheran church-Missouri synod, West Michigan Lutheran high school provides classes, programs, and activities that help encourage and cultivate the spiritual, academic, artistic, social, and physical growth of each student

School Vision Statement

Our vision is that each student will know of the saving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen their Christian faith; that through a biblical worldview and a rigorous and dynamic curriculum all students will obtain strong critical thinking and academic skills; and that each student will grow, learn and reach his or her potential as a student.

School Philosophy

West Michigan Lutheran High School accepts and acknowledges all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible as the inspired, revealed, and inerrant Word of God, and accepts and acknowledges all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord of 1580 as a true and sound exposition of Christian Doctrine taken from and in full agreement with the Holy Scriptures; no doctrine shall be taught as truth nor any practice tolerated which is a variance with these symbols of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, viz,:

- A. The Three Ecumenical Creeds (Apostolic, Nicene, Athanasian)**
- B. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession**
- C. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession**
- D. The Smalcald Articles**
- E. Luther's Large and Small Catechisms**
- F. The Formula of Concord**

West Michigan Lutheran High School acknowledges, accepts and believes that all who have been brought to faith in Jesus Christ are commissioned by Him to preserve and extend the kingdom of God. This is done by proclaiming to all, in the most effective means possible, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through the Work of the Holy Spirit, this proclamation changes hearts and lives and brings victory and comfort to individuals who are declared totally and unconditionally righteous for Christ's sake.

Christian education, applying God's Law and Gospel to all aspects of life and learning, is a vital component of the ministry of every Lutheran congregation. As a church body, we believe that *"the most effective agencies available to the church for equipping children and youth for ministry are the full-time Lutheran elementary and secondary schools"* (1983 LCMS Convention Proceedings, Resolution 2-17).

West Michigan Lutheran High School was established to serve the Lutheran Christian secondary education needs of the congregations belonging to the West Michigan Lutheran High School Association and others.

West Michigan Lutheran High School acknowledges, accepts, and believes four guiding principles from the Holy Scriptures which give guidance for our interrelationships and direction for our teaching, as herewith written:

- A. Matthew 22:37, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind”;**
- B. Matthew 22:39, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself”;**
- C. Matthew 28:19, 20, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age”;**
- D. Ephesians 4:11, 12, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”**

Finally, as we seek to do God’s will in all our teaching and learning, we profess our belief and acceptance of the words of Christ in Revelation 2:10, which state, *Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life,*” which is life in heaven with Jesus for all eternity. This is most certainly true!

Statement of Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of West Michigan Lutheran High School is to provide the spiritual atmosphere necessary to enable the students to obtain quality education and to grow in their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. West Michigan Lutheran High School will strive to continue the Christian guidance and values which have been instilled in these young people through Christian homes, families, and the church. In order to realize this purpose, the following objectives have been developed. West Michigan Lutheran High School will work toward helping all students to:

- A. Grow to the fullness of their God-given abilities.**
- B. Develop respect for themselves as individuals and to respect and use their God-given talents and rights.**
- C. Learn to accept others as individuals and to respect others’ talents and rights.**
- D. Learn to express their Christian faith in all thoughts, words, and actions.**
- E. Learn to develop and exercise respect for all forms of authority: God, parents, and all others who are placed in authority over them.**
- F. Relate responsibility to God’s creation, specifically in rural America, by acquiring knowledge and understanding of, and developing talents and skills for responsible living and serving.**
- G. Acquire academic proficiency in a variety of subjects which will prepare them for college and for service throughout their life.**
- H. Grow in their prayer life.**
- I. Grow in their knowledge of the Holy Scriptures.**
- J. Learn to witness from their teachers’ witness.**
- K. Cooperate in maintaining classroom settings of love, joy, concern, and respect.**
- L. Provide support and give social, academic, and spiritual encouragement to all members of the West Michigan Lutheran High School family.**
- M. Recognize the importance of service to others and the positive impact it has on themselves and the world around them**

Expected Student Outcomes

West Michigan Lutheran High School will provide teaching, learning and other educational experiences so that each student, through the Holy Spirit, will:

1. Joyfully proclaim the life, death, and resurrection of his/her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. (A)
2. Know that he/she is a loved, forgiven, and redeemed child of God. (B)
3. Recognize and use his/her individual talents. (B)
4. Treat fellow students in a Christian manner. (C)
5. Become involved in various activities which will help him/her develop and express his/her Christian faith. (D)
6. Treat staff members and all adults with esteem and respect. (E)
7. Grow in self-discipline and responsibility through regular attendance, completion of assignments, class participation, and valuing of Christian ethics. (F)
8. Earn enough credits each year to allow him/her to pass on to the next level. (G)
9. Take electives which reflect his/her abilities. (G)
10. Develop an active prayer life for private and corporate prayer needs and opportunities. (H)
11. Apply Scripture (Law/Gospel distinction) to his/her daily life to help him/her in making God-pleasing decisions/choices. (I)
12. Share his/her faith verbally and non-verbally. (J)
13. Respect classroom rules and treat other students/teachers with kindness and loving concern. (K)
14. Participate in many social functions and extra-curricular activities. (I)
15. Encourage the spiritual growth and maturity of others through verbal witness, prayer, and Christian example. (I)
16. Demonstrate academic excellence. (I)
17. Recognize his/her personal God-given abilities for service and strive to find and take advantage of opportunities to serve others. (M)

Academic Policies

Graduation Requirements

Students graduating from West Michigan Lutheran High School are expected to accumulate the following credits by the end of four years of high school.

Religion	4 credits	Foreign Language	2 credits
Soc. Studies	4 credits	Computer Science	1 credit
English	4 credits	Fine Arts	1 credit
Math	4 credits	Health	0.5 credit
Science	3 credits (4 credits beginning with the class of 2018)	Physical Education	0.5 credit

+Plus four electives from any courses above.

TOTAL 28 credits

Grading Scale

Grades at West Michigan Lutheran High School are indicated by letters as follows:

100-99%	A+
98-95%	A = Superior
94-92%	A-
91-89%	B+
88-86%	B = Good
85-83%	B-
82-78%	C+
77-75%	C = Satisfactory
74-72%	C-
71-69%	D+
68-67%	D = Poor, conditionally passed
66-65%	D-
64% or below	F = Failing

Incomplete - The "I" grade for first semester courses, is to be removed two weeks after the first day of the second semester and two calendar weeks after the close of the second semester. After this time, any remaining incompletes will be recorded as "F's."

Audit - Student is expected to do all the work for the class without receiving any credit for the class.

Withdraw- The "W" means they withdrew from the class at some point during the semester.

Each teacher will explain the weighting of his/her tests, quizzes, and homework in their first day handout. This will also include the weight assigned to each quarter of the semester and the semester final.

Grade Reports

Grades are given at the end of each nine week grading period. Credit for course work is awarded at the end of each semester. The semester grade will be determined as follows: 40% for each quarter of the semester and 20% for the semester final exam. Seniors will be excused for the final exam in each subject in the second semester for their senior year if they had a B+ or better grade.

Eligibility

The student is required to maintain a combined average of 2.0 in all classes and must have passed all classes during the previous quarter and semester. Performance in the classroom will be reviewed at mid-quarter and at the end of each quarter. In the case of mid-term ineligibility only, a student will have a minimum of one (1) week and maximum of two (2) weeks to raise the grade(s), during which time the student is ineligible. The ineligibility period is a seven-day period, starting with the day the progress reports comes out. If the student has not achieved a 2.0 combined average and is not passing all classes after two weeks, the student will remain ineligible until the next quarter report card. If a student is ineligible after the quarter/semester grading period, the student will remain ineligible until the next midterm. Ineligible students may continue to practice or rehearse but not perform in any extra-curricular activity.

Homework

Homework is not optional. It is expected that all students will do every assignment.

Valedictorian/Salutatorian

Students must attend West Michigan Lutheran High School for a minimum of three (3) consecutive semesters and be a full time student to be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian. Valedictorian or Salutatorian must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher.

Honor Roll

Board of Directors' Honor Roll – 3.85-4.00 with no grade below an A-

Principal's Honor Roll – 3.65-3.849

Honor Roll – 3.25-3.649

Students who graduate with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher will wear honor cords during the graduation ceremony.

Academic Lettering Policy

Eligibility will be based upon grades for three of four quarters of each school year.

Students will need a 3.5 grade point average and have no grades below a "B".

Students will receive a letter and/or pin each year they meet the set standards.

Department Offerings

Languages Department

ENGLISH- 4.0 Credits needed to graduate

English I

Credit: 1 credit Grade 9

Prerequisite: none

Description: English I has three major components: grammar, writing, and literature. Grammar includes the parts of speech and sentence structure. Writing includes sentence and paragraph development and a short research paper. Literature includes short stories, poetry, a Shakespearean play, and selected novel studies. American authors will be the central focus of the literature in this class. A unit on successful study skills is included in the first quarter.

English II

Credit: 1 credit Grade 10

Prerequisite: English I or its equivalent

Description: English II follows the same curriculum as English 9 but is more in-depth. English and authors from all over the world will be the focus of the literature for this class. Time will also be spent on a unit of public speaking.

English III

Credit: 1 credit Grade 11

Prerequisite: English II or its equivalent

Description: English III is devoted to the study of advanced composition and public speaking. Activities throughout the course will be geared to build the students writing and speaking skills. Reading of short stories or novels may be a part of this class.

English IV

Credit: 1 credit Grade 12

Prerequisite: English III or its equivalent

Description: English IV provides a study of American Literature, English Literature, and World Literature. Utilizing the works of well-known authors, students will continue to improve and develop their writing and research skills.

WORLD LANGUAGES: 2.0 Credits needed to graduate

Spanish I

Credit: 1 credit Grade 10

Prerequisite: none

Description: Spanish I involve an introduction to basic grammar and vocabulary of the Spanish language and its culture.

Spanish II

Credit: 1 credit Grade 11

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Description: Spanish II is a continuation of Spanish I as it reviews material learned in Spanish I and add more topics. The aim of the course is for the student to improve their ability to communicate in Spanish.

Humanities Department

RELIGION: 4.0 Credits needed for graduation

Religion I: Bible History

Credit: 1 credit Grade 9/10

Prerequisite: none

Description: This course is an overview of the Bible. The Old Testament is covered during the first semester and the New Testament is covered in the second semester.

Religion II: Confessions

Credit: 1 credit Grade 9/10

Prerequisite: none

Description: This course is an in-depth study of Lutheran doctrine. Students will examine Lutheran teachings and the Scriptural backing for these teachings.

Religion III: Christian Issues & Ethics

Credit: 1 credit Grade 11/12

Prerequisite: none

Description: This course will include units to help the student prepare for entering into the world. Topics covered will be witnessing to the world, love, dating, marriage, abortion, spiritual gifts, stewardship, and applying God's Word to decision making.

Religion IV: Comparative Religions

Credit: 1 credit Grade 11/12

Prerequisite: none

Description: This course will look at Lutheran doctrine in comparison with other Christian and non-Christian religions and cults. This course will enable students to know about other religions and be able to identify those things contrary to Lutheran doctrine.

SOCIAL STUDIES: 4.0 Credits needed for graduation

World History

Credit: 1 credit Grade 9

Prerequisites: none

Description: World history focuses on the major centers of civilization. Students will examine the political, social, and economic events that shaped ancient and modern history.

Modern U.S. History

Credit: 1 credit Grade 10

Prerequisite: World History

Description: Modern US History emphasizes the development of our nation from colonial to modern times. First semester covers colonial times through the Civil War. The second semester timeframe is from reconstruction through current times.

AP U.S History

Credit: 1 credit Grade 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: World History, *recommended for Juniors & Seniors*

Description: This course is a college course spread through an entire school year. There is a high emphasis on reading, writing papers, and self-motivation. This course will cover the revolutionary period through current news.

U.S. Government

Credit: .5 credit Grade 11

Description: Government offers students an in-depth study of the U. S. Constitution and the working of the government. Included is a study of each of the three major branches of our federal and state government.

Economics

Credit: .5 credit Grade 11

Prerequisite: World and US History

Description: This is a macro-economic course. World economics will be looked at putting a heavy emphasis on free enterprise. This course will also focus on the fiscal responsibility of our governments.

Psychology

Credit: 1 credit Grade 12

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior year

This course is an introduction to the study of psychology. Those who complete this course will have a head start for college psychology courses. Psychology teaches us to more fully understand who we are and why we do things.

Dual Enrollment: Civilization and World View

Credit: 1 credit Grade 11/12

Western Civilization presents an overview of the history of Western Civilization—its basic chronology, major events, and main themes. This course will attempt to present and analyze the character and evolution of global institutions and values by highlighting the political, cultural, economic, and social history of the world from early man through the present.

Science and Reasoning

MATHEMATICS: 4.0 Credits needed for graduation

Algebra I

Credit: 1 credit Grade 9

Prerequisite: none

Description: Algebra I is the first year of basic algebra and the building block for all high school math courses. Topics include use of variables, positive and negative numbers, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, use of radicals, monomials, and polynomials.

(Students completing Algebra in 8th grade do not have to repeat the course, although no high school credit is granted for course work completed prior to 9th grade.)

Geometry

Credit: 1 credit Grade 10

Prerequisite: completion of Algebra I

Description: Geometry covers two and three dimensional shapes and properties through proof and a development of critical thinking and logical reasoning. Geometry will include an introduction to spatial relationships in our working world.

Algebra II

Credit: 1 credit Grade 11

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Description: Algebra II builds on the principles learned in Algebra I, and introduces matrices, quadratic and logarithmic functions, conic sections, sequences and series, and basic trigonometry.

Pre-Calculus

Credit: 1 credit Grade 11, 12

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Description: Pre-Calculus includes topics of trigonometry and pre-calculus. Other topics would include inverses, conic sections, polar coordinates, complex numbers and vectors.

AP Calculus

Credit: 1 credit Grade 11, 12

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus, recommended for Jr. and Senior

Description: Advanced placement Calculus is a course that is approved by the college boards. Calculus is taught using graphical, numerical and algebraic modes of learning. The concepts of derivative and integral will be explored. This class is for the best math students who want to challenge themselves.

Personal Finance

Credit: .5 credit Year 11, 12

Prerequisite: pre-algebra or Algebra I

Description: This course is designed to give the student a practical course in utilizing mathematics in real life situations. Number theory and concepts are not covered, but arithmetic is used daily to compute the best cost/value purchase, which form of a loan offers the least interest etc.

Statistics

Credit: .5 credit Year 11, 12

Description: This course will explore basic probability and distribution of random variables, estimation and hypothesis tests for means and proportions, regression and correlation, and the analysis of count data. Students will develop skills that will allow them to gather, organize, display and summarize data. They will draw conclusions or make predictions from the data and assess the relative chances for certain events happening.

SCIENCE: 3.0 Credits needed for graduation (4 credits beginning with the class of 2018)

Biology

Credit: 1 credit Grade 9

Prerequisite: Physical Science

Description: Biology is an introduction to the study of life from a Biblical viewpoint. Topics will include creation and the theory of evolution, cell biology, botany, zoology, anatomy, physiology, heredity, and ecology. Laboratory work will be included.

Chemistry

Credit: 1 credit Grade 10

Prerequisite: Physical Science and Algebra I

Description: Chemistry provides students the opportunity to gain a clearer understanding of the world in which they live at the atomic level. Topics include matter and energy, atomic structure, bonding, the periodic table, acids and bases, organic chemistry, nuclear chemistry and lab activities.

Physics

Credit: 1 credit Grade 11, 12

Prerequisite: Physical Science, Algebra I and Geometry

Description: Physics covers the interactions between matter and the changes in energy that accompany these interactions. Topics include mechanics, thermodynamics, vibrations and waves, optics, electromagnetism, relativity, and quantum mechanics. Laboratory work is included.

Human Anatomy and Physiology

Credit: 1 credit Grade 11, 12

Prerequisite: Biology

Description: This course includes the study of the structure and function of the different systems of the human body. Laboratory work is included.

AP Biology

Credit: 1 credit Grade 11, 12

Prerequisite: Biology, recommended for Jr. and Senior

Description: Advanced placement Biology is a course that is approved by the college boards. Topics of study include cellular biology, genetics, heredity, evolution, botany, ecology, and human anatomy and physiology. Laboratory work is an important part of the course

Environmental Science:

Credit: 1 credit Grade 11/12

Environmental Science is not only learning about science, it is about learning the complex issues facing our environment. Students explore different points of view and a variety of differing opinions. As their knowledge and skills in environmental science grow, students will be able to draw their own conclusions about the issues that are facing our environment.

TECHNOLOGY: .5 Credit needed for graduation

Computer Applications

Credit: .5 credit any grade level

Prerequisite: none

Description: A survey on computer applications. The internet will be used on a regular basis. Software will be explored with an emphasis on Microsoft Office.

Health and Wellness

Study Skills: .5 needed for graduation

Credit: .5 credit Grade 9

Prerequisite: none

This course is designed to help students learn the study skills that they need in order to be successful in high school. Topics of study include organization, studying, note taking, goal setting, preparing for tests, and taking tests. There is also a unit on keyboarding and another unit on career research.

Health: .5 needed for graduation

Credit: .5 credit Grade 9

Prerequisite: none

Description: This course covers basic issues of physical health, nutrition, mental health, and other topics involving a total healthy lifestyle.

Physical Education: .5 needed for graduation

Credit: 1 credit (subject to partial credits) Any grade level. May be repeated

Prerequisite: none

Description: This course includes personal fitness, team, and individual sports.

Fine Arts

1 credit needed for graduation

Choir

Credit: .5 credit (subject to partial credits) Any grade level. May be repeated.

Prerequisite: none

Description: Varsity Voices is an academic experience in the context of a music performance vocal choir. A variety of musical forms with historical significance, voicing, level of challenge and Christian faith-building potential will outline our repertoire. The student will learn music theory, sight reading techniques, and vocal production techniques within the setting of the vocal experience. Concerts will be given per invitation or opportunity.

Art

Credit: .5 credit (subject to partial credits) Any grade level. May be repeated.

Prerequisite: none

Description: This course is designed to guide students in a study of the vast world of art and art history. The fundamental aspects of art are explored through many kinds of media, using different formats and applications.

Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment courses are available through West Michigan Lutheran High School. Dual enrollment courses are college level courses offered by an accredited university or college. Students that successfully complete these courses receive both high school and college credit. Please check with the guidance director on what courses are being offered.