

West Michigan Lutheran High School Academic Guide

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 based on 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.

Statement of Faith

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, that Holy Scriptures gives guidance for our interrelationships and direction for our teaching, as herewith written:

- A. We believe that we should love our Lord with all our being. Matthew 22:37**
- B. We believe we should love our neighbors. Matthew 22:39,**

- C. We believe in the great commission that we are to bring the Good News of our risen Savior to all we meet. Matthew 28:19, 20
- D. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God. Genesis 1:26-27
- E. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning; the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. Genesis 2:18-25. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and woman who are married to each other. 1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and woman.
- F. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.
- G. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.
- H. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of West Michigan Lutheran High School. Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposed of West Michigan Lutheran High School's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our board of directors is WMLHS's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

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!

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)

Student Code of Conduct

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.

In achieving these goals, we have established a basic code of conduct listed below.

- Students will act in a Christian manner in school and during all extracurricular activities. This includes but not limited to:
 - Dressing in conformance with one’s biological sex.
 - Using the restrooms, locker rooms, and changing facilities conforming with one’s biological sex.
 - Abstaining from all intimate sexual conduct outside the marital union of one man and one woman.
 - Completing all tests, assignments, and projects honestly, and not collaborate in dishonest actions.
 - Christian citizenship and respect for everyone.
- Students will abstain from alcohol, tobacco products (including e-cigarettes) and other controlled substances.
- Students will arrive on time to all classes and school activities.
- Students will follow the school dress code at all times.

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	4 credits	Physical Education	0.5 credit

+Plus, three 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. Band and Choir are part of the academic lettering. But since these classes may not always be taken for the entire year, eligibility will be determined once four quarters have been achieved.

Students will need a 3.5 grade point average and have no grades below a "B" (3.420 or 86%).

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.

AP Literature

Credit: 1 credit Grade 11 & 12

Prerequisite: English I and II or equivalent

Description: The AP English Literature and Composition course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. ... As they read, students consider a work's structure, style and themes, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism and tone.

AP Language

Credit: 1 credit Grade 11 & 12

Prerequisite: English I and II or equivalent

Description: **AP English Language** and Composition is an introductory college-level composition course. Students cultivate their understanding of writing and rhetorical arguments through reading, analyzing, and

writing texts as they explore topics like rhetorical situation, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, and style.

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: Old Testament

Credit: 1 credit Grade 9/10

Prerequisite: none

Description: This course is an overview of the Old Testament in the Holy Bible. In this course, the book of Moses, the book of Abraham, and the Old Testament are your primary texts. Students are led to understand the context and content of the scripture block, including the story line, people, places, and events. As they become familiar with the context and content of each scripture block, seek to identify doctrines and principles it contains, and decide which truths are most important for application in daily living and applying the sacred truths found in the scriptures.

Religion II: New Testament

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. Course provides information to the scripture blocks, outlines important gospel principles to look for, and suggests ways many of those principles might be taught so as to help students understand them and apply them in their lives.

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.

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

Description: 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.

Research Seminar

Credit: 1 credit Grade 11, 12

Prerequisite: World History and U.S. History. *Recommended for Juniors & Seniors*

Description: The Research Seminar is in conjunction with the National History Day. Students are engaged in historical research and skills development. These include critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, and research and reading skills. The course also builds self-esteem and confidence in the students.

Dual Enrollment: American Civilization

Credit: 1 credit Grade 11/12

Description: American Civilization is a survey of the history of the United States from pre-Columbian America to the present. It will explore the political, economic, religious, social, ideological, and aesthetic influences in the American Story. American Civilization is designed to help students develop knowledge of broad areas of history and philosophy of history; an appreciation of the major events and themes in U.S. history and historiography; and skills necessary to read, write, and speak about U.S. history and historical writing.

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: 4.0 Credits needed for graduation

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 Credits 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.

Computer Programming

Credit: .5 credit any grade level

Prerequisite: none

Description: This half-semester course aims to teach basic programming and computational concepts to students with little or no previous coding experience.

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.

Instrumental Ensemble

Credit: 1 credit. Any grade levels. May be repeated

Prerequisite: None

Description: Instrumental Ensemble is an academic experience in the context of a music performance instrumental ensemble. A variety of musical forms with historical significance, level of challenge and Christian faith-building potential will outline our repertoire.

Drama

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

Prerequisite: none

Additional Fee for Course (~\$30 to \$40)

Description: In this class, students will be introduced to the basic concepts of theatre arts. Students will use various creative drama techniques to build *confidence* and trust, stimulate imagination, movement, and role-play. Through theatre games and activities students will learn to lose inhibitions and will gain trust in themselves as well as others in their groups. Students will learn and use drama and theatre vocabulary in class discussions and the activities will specifically address the promotion and reinforcement of students' literacy skills. Students will exhibit and reinforce their skills through individual and group presentations, and performances. Students will also be required to attend 3 to 4 public performances during the Semester taken.

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. Both AP and Dual Enrollment classes require that the student has achieved a 3.0 grade point average prior to enrolling in these classes. Exceptions require the entire faculty signing off for the student to be approved for enrollment without a 3.0 grade point average. 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.