



Welcome VNHS Wolves!

Greetings Class of 2025, we are excited to welcome the newest members of our WolfPack family. We challenge your class to make its mark on Van Nuys High School through achievement and excellence. Each class has contributed to the successes that truly make Van Nuys High School a place of inspiration and academic distinction. The time, dedication, and hard work you put into your commitments every day will make your experience unforgettable. Our teachers, clerks, counselors, and coordinators are invested in supporting the ambitions of all of our students. We look forward to meeting you and helping to make your time at Van Nuys High School Magnet Program a treasured experience.

This Curriculum Guide is designed to provide you with information that will help guide you in selecting classes for the ninth grade, understanding graduation requirements, and discovering college prerequisites.

Hugs from Your Magnet Mamas,

Fanny Araña & Dawn Brown

#There's always something great happening at VNHS!



2020-2021
9th Grade
CURRICULUM GUIDE



SELECTING REQUIRED COURSES

1. ENGLISH – English 9 A/B or Honors 9 A/B. Students in STM and Medical Magnet will be placed in Honors 9A/B. PA students with strong grades in English may take Honors English. Students in special education will be placed according to the IEP and may be discussed in detail during a matriculation IEP.
2. MATHEMATICS – Algebra 1A/1B, Geometry IA/B, Algebra 2A/2B, or Honors Algebra 2A/2B. We typically use the results from the District placement test, but for now, please choose the course you would like. If you are currently taking Math 8, you will choose Algebra 1A/B. Students taking Algebra 1A will choose Algebra 2A/B or Honors Algebra 2A/B. If you choose an Honors course, you should be getting B+ or A grades in your current math class. If you have taken Algebra 1 and 2, you will choose Geometry A/B. If you have an IEP, we can discuss your math placement in detail during your matriculation IEP. *There is an opportunity to take Algebra 1, Algebra 2, or Geometry in summer school to advance in the math sequence, speak to your counselor.
3. SCIENCE – Biology A/B, Honors Biology A/B, or AP Biology A/B. STM and Medical Magnet students will be in Honors Biology A/B. PA students with strong grades may take Honors Biology. Students who choose AP Biology are recommended to have all “As”, currently in Honors classes, and “Standards Exceeded” on SBAC scores. Students in special education will be programmed according to the IEP and science placement can be discussed in detail during your matriculation IEP.
4. PHYSICAL EDUCATION - All 9th graders must take Adv PE 1 A/B or meet the physical education requirement through Sports, Marching Band, JROTC, or Dance and will need to pass the Fitness Gram. Two years (4 semesters) of PE are required for all students. Students who do not pass 5 out of the 6 parts of the FitnessGram must take PE every semester until they pass it. When choosing your PE course, for now, all students will be placed in Adv PE 1 A/B. Athletic team (including cheerleading, dance company, and marching band) selection is based on tryouts and teacher approval. Coaches and directors will give us rosters of students based on tryouts and your PE class will be switched to your sports team, cheer team, dance company, or marching band. It is very possible that Adv PE 9 will be on your schedule when school begins and changed as you make the roster for your sport.
5. FOREIGN LANGUAGE - Students must take two years of a foreign language to meet the L.O.T.E. (Language Other Than English) graduation requirement. Students planning to apply to a UC and other Universities will need to take three years. Students interested in earning the Seal of Biliteracy may choose to take AP Spanish Language or AP French Language.
6. ELECTIVES - Students will take one VAPA (visual and/or performing arts) or College Prep Elective in 9th grade.
 - a. F - Visual/Performing Arts - All students must take at least one year (2 semesters of a Visual/Performing Art). College-bound students must ensure to take the same class for two semesters (the A and the B part of the same course).
 - b. G - College Prep Elective - All students must take at least one year (2 semesters of a College Prep Elective).

Overview of Elective Options:

<p><u>ENGLISH ELECTIVES</u> <i>These classes may require after school hours.</i></p> <p>Journalism 1 AB Journalism 2 AB Journalism 3 AB Yearbook AB (7th period) AP Seminar (11th grade) AP Research (12th grade)</p> <p><u>FINE ARTS ELECTIVES</u></p> <p>Calligraphy Painting 1 AB AP Studio Art Drawing AP Studio Art 2D AP Studio Art 3D Amer Images AP Art History Design Craft</p> <p><u>MUSIC ELECTIVES</u></p> <p>Keyboard Instruments - Ukulele (beginner) Instruments - Strings (beginner) Ukulele Ensemble (experienced) Jazz Ensemble AB Vocal Ensemble AB Harmony (Level 1) Choir AB (Level 2) Adv. Band AB Adv. Orchestra AB Drill Team</p>	<p><u>PERFORMING ARTS</u></p> <p>Dance (Level 1) Dance (Level 2) Dance Company (audition only) Theater Ensemble AB (Level 1) Theater Production AB (Level 2) Theater Company AB (Level 3)</p> <p><u>SOCIAL SCIENCE ELECTIVES</u></p> <p>AP Psychology AB AP Human Geography</p> <p><u>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</u></p> <p>Marching Band (PE credit) Adv PE Dance (PE credit)</p> <p><u>COMPUTERS</u></p> <p>AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science AB (Advanced)</p> <p><u>PREREQUISITES APPLY</u> <u>LEADERSHIP & SERVICE CLASSES</u></p> <p>PEER COUNSELING (12TH ONLY) No D's, F's or U's AND must be on track. Students are assigned according to school-determined needs.</p> <p>LEADERSHIP To enroll see Mr. Ferrin for the application process.</p>	<p><u>PREREQUISITES APPLY</u> <u>CTE PATHWAYS: Concentrator (Con)/Capstone (Cap)</u> <i>*To be in Capstone MUST have taken Concentrator</i> <i>*12th graders cannot be in a Capstone w/o Concentrator</i></p> <p><u>ARTS, MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT:</u> Graphic Dsgn (CON)/Graphic: Advanced Dsgn (Capstone) Video Production 1 (INTRO) / Video Prod 2 (CON) / Video Prod 3 (Capstone) Animation 1 CTE (CON) / Animation 2 (Capstone) Technical Theatre 1 (CON) / Technical Theatre 2 (Capstone) only someone who has passed either Technical Theatre Level 1 or Theatre Design Level 1 with a C or higher (both semesters) can be in it. Theatre Design 1 (CON) / Theatre Design 2 (Capstone) only someone who has passed either Technical Theatre Level 1 or Theatre Design Level 1 with a C or higher (both semesters) can be in it.</p> <p><u>TRANSPORTATION:</u> Auto Engineering AB (CON) / CTE Auto Maintenance 1 (CON) / CTE Auto Main 2 (CON) / CTE Auto Main 3 (Capstone)</p> <p><u>BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION:</u> Machinist Fundamental AB (CON) / Machinist 1 AB (CON)/ Machining Tech (CON) / CAD Manufacturing (CON) / MFG Prototyping (Capstone)</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY, TOURISM & RECREATION:</u> Food & Nutrition (CON) Culinary Nutrition (Capstone)</p>
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Performing Arts Electives:

- ❖ Choir (Chamber)*
- ❖ Harmony 1 (Vanaires)*
- ❖ Vocal Ensemble (Beginner)
- ❖ Dance
- ❖ Advanced Jazz Dance (Teacher Rec)
- ❖ Dance Company*
- ❖ Instruments A (Ukelele)
- ❖ Instruments A (Strings)
- ❖ Adv. Orchestra
- ❖ Jazz Ensemble (Rhythm Lab)*
- ❖ Keyboarding A
- ❖ Advanced Band (Marching Band)*
- ❖ Harmony 2 (Song Writing)
- ❖ Theatre Design
- ❖ Theatre Ensemble (Beginner)
- ❖ Theatre Production (Intermediate)*
- ❖ Theatre
- ❖ Technical Theatre
- ❖ Drill Team (Color Guard)
- ❖ Video Production 1 (Beginner)
- ❖ Video Production 2

College Prep Electives:

- ❖ American Image
- ❖ Animation
- ❖ Design Craft
- ❖ Calligraphy A
- ❖ Painting
- ❖ AP Studio Art (Drawing)
- ❖ AP Studio Art 3D
- ❖ Graphic Design
- ❖ AP Computer Science Principles (First Level)
- ❖ AP Computer Science (Second Level)
- ❖ AP Psychology
- ❖ AP Human Geography
- ❖ AP Art History
- ❖ CAD Design 1A
- ❖ Machinist Fundamentals
- ❖ Auto Tech Engineering
- ❖ Journalism 1, 2, 3, 4*
- ❖ Food and Nutrition
- ❖ Leadership* (Application needed)
- ❖ Yearbook (7th Period)

*Teacher Approval Required

Math/Science Magnet Sequence

9th Gr schedule

- 1- Honors English 9A/B
- 2- Honors Biology A/B
- 3- Math (level depends on student) *
- 4- Foreign Language 1A/B (Spanish/French)
- 5- P.E.**
- 6- College-Prep Elective (Fine art?)
- 7- On-line Health Class

10th Gr schedule

- 1- Honors English 10A/B
- 2- Honors Chemistry or AP Biology
- 3- Math (level depends on student) *
- 4- Foreign Language 2A/B
- 5- P.E.**
- 6- Honors or AP World History

11th Gr Schedule

- 1- Honors or AP English
- 2- AP Chemistry or Physics or H Physiology or Biotechnology or AP Environmental Science
- 3- Math (level depends on student) *
- 4- Foreign Language 3A/B? or College-Prep Elective
- 5- Honors or AP US History
- 6- College-Prep Elective

12th Gr Schedule

- 1- Honors or AP English
- 2- H or AP Physics or H Physiology or Biotechnology or AP Environmental Science
- 3- Math (level depends on student)
- 4- AP Foreign Language or College-Prep Elective
- 5- Honors or AP Government or Economics
- 6- College-Prep Elective

*Math Sequence:

Algebra 1 → H Algebra 2 → Geometry → Pre-Calculus → AP Calculus AB → AP Calculus BC → AP Statistics
Advanced seq.: Geometry → H Alg 2/Pre-Calc A → Pre-Calc B/AP Calc A → AP Calculus BC → AP Statistics

**P.E. requirement may be met by Regular P.E., Dance, Marching Band, JROTC, or any sports team. Some sports teams meet afterschool as a 7th period class.



Medical Careers Magnet Sequence

9th Gr schedule

- 1- Honors English 9A/B
- 2- Honors Biology A/B
- 3- Math (level depends on student) *
- 4- Foreign Language 1A/B (Spanish/French)
- 5- Career Exploration (MM class)
- 6- P.E.**
- 7- On-line Health Class

10th Gr schedule

- 1- Honors English 10A/B
- 2- Honors Chemistry or AP Biology
- 3- Math (level depends on student) *
- 4- Foreign Language 2A/B
- 5- P.E.**
- 6- Honors or AP World History

11th Gr Schedule

- 1- Honors or AP English
- 2- AP Chemistry or Physics or H Physiology or Biotechnology or AP Environmental Science
- 3- Math (level depends on student) *
- 4- Foreign Language 3A/B? or College-Prep Elective
- 5- Honors or AP US History
- 6- College-Prep Elective
- 7- Honors Research Lab A or AP Seminar

12th Gr Schedule

- 1- Honors or AP English
- 2- H or AP Physics or H Physiology or Biotechnology or AP Environmental Science
- 3- Math (level depends on student) *
- 4- AP Foreign Language or College-Prep Elective
- 5- Honors or AP Government or Economics
- 6- College-Prep Elective
- 7- Honors Research B or AP Research

***Math Sequence:**

Algebra 1 → H Algebra 2 → Geometry → Pre-Calculus → AP Calculus AB → AP Calculus BC → AP Statistics
Advanced seq.: Geometry → H Alg 2/Pre-Calc A → Pre-Calc B/AP Calc A → AP Calculus BC → AP Statistics

**P.E. requirement may be met by Regular P.E., Dance, Marching Band, JROTC, or any sports team. Some sports teams meet afterschool as a 7th period class.



Performing Arts Magnet Sequence

9th Gr schedule

- 1- Regular or Honors English 9A/B
- 2- Regular or Honors Biology A/B
- 3- Math (level depends on student) *
- 4- Foreign Language 1A/B (Spanish/French)
- 5- P.E. **
- 6- Performing Arts Elective
- 7- On-line Health Class

10th Gr schedule

- 1- Regular or Honors English 10A/B
- 2- Regular or Honors Chemistry
- 3- Math (level depends on student) *
- 4- Perf. Arts Elect. or Foreign Lang. 2A/B
- 5- P.E.**
- 6- Honors or AP World History

11th Gr Schedule

- 1- Regular, Honors or AP English
- 2- Regular or Honors Physics or H Physiology or AP Environmental Science
- 3- Math (level depends on student) *
- 4- Foreign Language 2 or 3A/B or College-Prep Elective
- 5- Regular, Honors or AP US History
- 6- Performing Arts Elective

12th Gr Schedule

- 1- Regular, Honors or AP English
- 2- Science (level depends on student) or College-Prep Elective
- 3- Math (level depends on student) * or College-Prep Elective
- 4- AP Foreign Language or College-Prep Elective
- 5- Honors or AP Government or Economics
- 6- Performing Arts Elective

*Math Sequence:

Algebra 1 → H Algebra 2 → Geometry → Pre-Calculus → AP Calculus AB → AP Calculus BC → AP Statistics
Advanced seq.: Geometry → H Alg 2/Pre-Calc A → Pre-Calc B/AP Calc A → AP Calculus BC → AP Statistics

**P.E. requirement may be met by Regular P.E., Dance, Marching Band, JROTC, or any sports team. Some sports teams meet afterschool as a 7th period class.



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH

English 9 - develops competence in the writing of clear, coherent, correct sentences and paragraphs, and the development of critical thinking and reading skills, as they are demonstrated in discussion and writing. College-prep.

Honors English 9 - develops effective writing skills as demonstrated in multi-paragraph composition. Frequent writing assignments will be given. Also developed will be advanced critical reading skills through the study of novels, short stories, plays, poems, and selected essays.

MATHEMATICS

Algebra 1A/1B – this course covers the concepts of algebra, including equations, inequalities, problem-solving, word problems, and graphing.

Algebra 2A/2B - this course focuses on the solutions and graphs of polynomial, radical, logarithmic and exponential functions, as well as familiarizes students with the complex number system.

Honors Algebra 2A/2B – is the same as Algebra 2 except that the pace is accelerated and the topics are covered in greater depth. Students are expected to continue math through Calculus.

Geometry 1A/1B – this math course covers the basic concepts of two and three-dimensional Geometry.

Honors Pre-Calculus- Pre-Calculus is a full-year course that blends together all of the pre-calculus concepts and skills that must be mastered prior to enrollment in a college-level Calculus course. A functional approach integrating as many concepts as possible will be used throughout the course. A graphing calculator is used extensively.

SCIENCE

Biology A/B – presents a complete overview of biological concepts from simple living organisms like amoeba to more complex living organisms- like humans. This class is college-prep. It meets the Biological Science requirement for graduation and meets the “D” Science lab requirement.

Honors Biology A/B – is the same as Biology A/B except that the pace is accelerated and the topics are covered in greater depth.

AP Biology A/B - This class also meets the Biological science requirement for graduation and meets the “D” Science lab requirement. This Advanced Placement course is very rigorous, and students can earn possible college credit for certain scores on the AP exam at the end of the year.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

French I A/B - develops the ability to speak, read and write simple French through practice in pronunciation, vocabulary building, and grammatical principles.

Spanish I A/B - studies the language’s basic grammatical structure. Vocabulary is enhanced through practice in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1 – This course is like Spanish 1 A/B but is for students who speak Spanish at home. Students passing Spanish Speakers 1 A/B with a “C” or better meet the 2-year graduation requirement.

ELECTIVES

Performing Arts Magnet- 9th grade students must take at least one Performing Arts Elective.

Science/Technology/Math Magnet- 9th grade students will be in Honors classes and may choose either a Performing Arts or College Prep Elective.

Medical Magnet- 9th grade students will be in Honors classes and take Health Career Exploration 21st Century as an elective.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION








All ninth graders take Adv PE 1A/B. This class may be met if a student is on an Athletic Team, Dance, Cheerleading, JROTC, Drill Team, or Marching Band.



“A-G” REQUIREMENTS

Graduation for UC and Cal State Schools

In order to be considered for admission to UC and CSU schools students must complete a specific course sequence called the “A-G” and earn a grade of “C” or better in each course.

A-G	SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS	MINIMUM YEARS
A	HISTORY [2 years] 1 year of Modern Civilization 1 year of U.S. History or 1 semester of U.S. History and 1 semester of U.S. Government	
B	ENGLISH [4 years] Only 1 year will be accepted from the 9th grade.	
C	MATHEMATICS [3 years] *4 years recommended Approved courses beginning with first year Algebra Completion of Geometry and Algebra II required	
D	LAB SCIENCES [2 years] *3 years recommended Two years of a Laboratory Science in at least two of the three disciplines: *Biology *Chemistry *Physics	
E	WORLD LANGUAGES [2 years] *3 or 4 years recommended Must be two years of the same language	
F	VISUAL or PERFORMING ARTS [1 year] Approved courses must include a full-year of one discipline (For Example: Art 1A and 1B or Theatre A and B)	
G	COLLEGE PREP. ELECTIVE [1 year] Fulfilled by taking additional courses beyond the required courses in categories “A-F”. (For example: You must take modern civilization and U.S. History. This fulfills the History of “A” requirement. You must also take American government and econ as a senior. These two classes will fulfill your “G” requirement.)	

MEETING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students must complete these credits to earn a diploma from the Los Angeles Unified School District. They must also complete Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry.

English	40 credits	Government	5	credits
Math	30 credits	Economics	5	credits
Physical Science	10 credits	Physical Education	20	credits
Biological Science	10 credits	Health	5	credits
Fine Arts	10 credits	Electives	35	credits
Foreign Language	20 credits			
World History	10 credits			
U.S. History	10 credits			
TOTAL	210 CREDITS			

Los Angeles Unified School District prohibits unlawful discrimination against and/or harassment of any student, employee, or job applicant on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, immigration status, ancestry, religion, age, marital status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition, veteran status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or sexual orientation at any District site and/or activity.

SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSES

Aside from all the fine and practical art choices, students with an IEP have a few extra options available to them. Resource students can take a Learning Resource class each semester. Parents and students will discuss course selections and schedules at matriculation IEP meetings.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are rigorous, two-semester college-level courses designed for students eligible for honors-level instruction. It is assumed that students who are enrolled are committed to extensive work in the course and will devote the necessary time and effort to prepare for the AP exam. Advanced Placement courses are designed specifically to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement exam in May. It is assumed by both the school and the course instructor that when you register for an AP course, that you fully intend to take the AP exam in May. The teacher of an AP course may require or incorporate the AP exam as a component of your class grade. Additionally, failure to complete an AP course or failure to take an AP exam may reflect negatively on university applications.

Most students start taking AP courses in 10th grade. However, if you are currently in Honors Courses, receiving all A's, and earn "Standards Exceeded" on your SBAC scores, you may take an AP course in 9th grade. AP Human Geography or AP Biology is a suggested course for these students. If you are interested in taking any AP courses in 9th grade please contact your counselor directly and complete the "Advanced Placement Course Letter of Understanding". For more information, visit our website at [Advanced Placement \(AP\) / AP Course Description](#)

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

Community Colleges - Admit graduates of any high school and other persons 18 years of age or older who are capable of profiting from instruction. ACT or SAT tests are NOT required. Placement in English and Math will be based on the highest math course taken in high school as well as grades and overall GPA.

Cal State University (CSU) - requires high school graduation plus a "C" average in required classes on an A-G Subject List.

University of California (UC) - requires high school graduation plus a "B" average or better in "15 units" from the A – G list. A - G courses include:

- A. 2 years U.S. History/social science
- B. 4 years English
- C. 3 - 4* years college-prep math (through Algebra 2A/B as a minimum)
- D. 2 - 3* years Lab Science (one year of Biology and one year of either Chemistry or Physics)
- E. 2 - 3* years Foreign Language
- F. 1 year visual/performing arts
- G. 1 year college-prep electives

*Additional year recommended for students wanting to attend a UC university or other competitive universities

Private Colleges and Universities - Set their own requirements.

NCAA – For students who wish to be college athletes, they should see their high school counselor on how to earn their "16 units" to be NCAA eligible.

To-Do List!!!

Check the [VNHS Website](#) regularly for news and information to help you be a strong student and “follow” VNHS Magnets on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to get regular updates and important information.

9th Grade Suggested Courses and Activities...

- ❖ *Make sure you are completing your A through G Requirements* - Take Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra II, or higher level Math; honors English; an honors-level Lab Science (Biology); and a language other than English (ex.; Spanish, French, etc).

Sample Schedule:

1. English 9A/B
2. Biology
3. Math (Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry)
4. Spanish 1A/B or French 1A/B
5. VAPA or College Prep Elective
6. Physical Education

- ❖ *Try to earn A and B grades in all your classes.* Focus on your classwork and your homework to develop the study skills you will need to succeed in high school to prepare for college. Colleges and Universities use your grades from 10th and 11th grade to calculate your Grade Point Average (GPA). Having A's and B's will keep your GPA at 3.00 or above.
 - *If you get a “D” or Fail on your final Report Card, make sure that you speak to your counselor about signing up for Summer School.*
- ❖ *Take the PSAT.* If offered, this test is given in October through the College Office. This test will help you to prepare for the SAT that you will take in your 11th grade year and may need for acceptance to a university. *Many colleges/universities no longer require it.
- ❖ *Begin Volunteering* – Medical Magnet students are required to complete a minimum of 100 hours in a medical facility; however, it is recommended that all students participate in volunteer activities.
- ❖ *Take part in clubs, sports, enrichment programs, internships, special summer workshops or camps* at UC, CSU, and other college campuses in music, science, engineering, writing, filmmaking, theater, language, and many other subjects.
- ❖ *Update your College Plan* with the courses you complete in the 9th grade and those you plan to take in the 10th grade. <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/makea-plan>

VAN NUYS HS MAGNET FAMILY WELCOMES YOU

We can't wait to welcome your student and help guide them through their educational adventures!



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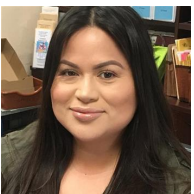
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