



WEST SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

425 Piper Road

West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089

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www.wsps.org

THE COMMUNITY

The town of West Springfield (est. population 27,899) is located in Western Massachusetts at the intersection of Interstate 91 and the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90). Its land use is characterized as a combination of suburban and urban with some farms and many light manufacturing plants, each with a small work force.

THE HIGH SCHOOL

West Springfield High School is a public comprehensive high school covering grades 9 through 12. It is accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges. The enrollment as of September 2008 is 1348. The Terrier House (substantially separate 9th grade) was recognized by NEASC as a model program in 2007.

THE FACULTY

A teaching staff of 99 plus a support staff of 69.

THE ADMINISTRATION

Peter Dufresne, Principal

Erin Bruhm, Vice Principal

Jason Gilmartin, Vice Principal

Maria Silvestri, Vice Principal

Cathy Meader, Athletic Director

THE GUIDANCE & COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Kathleen T. Jachym, Guidance Chair

Bonnie Cofer, Guidance Counselor

Shamis A. White, Guidance Counselor

Edward Jacques, Guidance Counselor

Louise Fullam, Adjustment Counselor

Michael Scanlon, Guidance Counselor

Denise Gagnier, Adjustment Counselor

Dina Sibilias, Guidance Counselor

THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Suzanne Marotta, Superintendent of Schools

Kevin McQuillan, Assistant Superintendent

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

85% of graduates enter universities, colleges, junior colleges, and specialized schools. Four-year colleges: 35%; two-year colleges and specialized schools: 50%; Military Service : 4%; Employment: 8%; Unsure: 3%. (Class of 2008*)

* Data regarding post secondary plans is compiled from a student survey.
 Plans may change after graduation.

CURRICULUM

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ADVANCED PLACEMENT: English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, U.S. History, European History, Calculus, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Spanish, French, Italian, German and Latin. HONORS courses are available in all of the above with the exception of foreign languages.

INTERDISCIPLINARY: Integrated Physics/Precalculus combining Honors Precalculus and Honors Physics

ENGLISH: For students in grades 11 and 12, college preparatory offerings are semesterised. Choices include American Lit, English Lit, Yearbook, Journalism, Speech and Debate, Philosophy and Literature, Creative Writing, Contemporary Fiction, MCAS preparation, Acting and Shakespeare. In addition, American International College offers two semesters of English Composition work at our high school.

MATHEMATICS: A comprehensive selection of courses is offered by the department to encourage students to elect as many college preparatory mathematics courses as they see fit. Offerings for each grade include Problem Solving, Business Math, Algebra I, IA & IB, II, Geometry, Precalculus, Calculus, Probability and Statistics, Advanced Topics in Math, Preparation for the MCAS test and Math Labs.

SCIENCE: Courses offered include Introduction to Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Human Biology, Bio Med, Environmental Science, Earth Science and Practical Applications of College Chemistry and Kitchen Science. All science courses include a laboratory component.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Four years of French, Spanish, Latin, and Italian are offered to interested and able language students. German is offered as interest warrants.

SOCIAL STUDIES: Grade 9 encompasses World History. Grade 10 focuses on the early years of United States History. Grade 11 concentrates on the second half of U.S. History. Grade 12 concentrates on electives, which include European History, Political Science, Economics, Supreme Court, Contemporary Issues, Psychology, Sociology, Celtic Studies, East Asia Experience and Comparative Religions.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: All students are required to take and pass four semesters of Physical Education and two semesters of health. Students age 15 and older may opt for the Lifeguard Training Class.

ELECTIVES: Work Based Learning and Career Based Learning in business or industry, externships, twelve Vocational Programs, Business, Consumer and Life Skills, Music, Art and Computer courses are also available in addition to the traditional academic offerings.

TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING: Offers a comprehensive look at courses designed to prepare all students for careers and advanced technical programs, by providing them with technological skills, and the opportunity to explore a variety of occupations.

INDEPENDENT STUDY: Early College, School to Career, Tech-Prep, on-line and off campus classes are academic components of the high school program.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students, must earn a minimum of 115 credits. Each of the following must be included:

REQUIRED SUBJECTS

English 20 credits

Social Studies 15 credits

(including two years U.S. History & one of World History)

Mathematics* 15 credits

(including an Algebra and a Geometry)

**Beginning with the Class of 2012, students must take 20 credits in Math including Alg. & Geometry*

Science 10 credits*

(includes Biology)

**Beginning with the Class of 2010, students must take 15 credits in Science, including Biology*

Physical Education/Health 15 credits

Plus 40 elective credits.

Rank-in-class at West Springfield High School is calculated in the fall of the senior year, and is based on the grades earned during Grades 9, 10 and 11. It is calculated, once again, one semester before graduation for inclusion with college applications and finally at the end of the fourth quarter to determine Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Five year graduates do not receive a class rank. Transfer students must be in attendance at WSHS for three semesters in order to obtain a class rank. Physical Education Courses and pass/fail subjects are not computed in the rank. AP courses are weighted most heavily, followed by Honors Courses, then College Preparatory. Courses taken through Dual Enrollment are weighted at an Honors Level. Transcripts reflect class rank. (All weighted grades are reflected in class rank.)

*West Springfield High School releases information about its students only with a **written** request from the student or the student's parent.*



LETTER GRADES WITH ASSIGNED NUMERICAL RANGES

90 - 100 = A

80 - 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

65 - 69 = D

65- = D-

64 OR BELOW = F

N = AUDIT

Credits toward graduation requirements are awarded for passing grades only. No credits are awarded for grades of "F", or below "65-", or if a student has exceeded the number of allowable absences. A final examination is required as part of each course. West Springfield High School has a college recommending grade of 70. "WF" = Withdraw failing. "WP" = Withdraw passing.

TESTING

ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTS Spring 2008

| | Number Tested | Scored 3 or above |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Biology | 5 | 5 |
| Calculus AB | 16 | 15 |
| Chemistry | 2 | 1 |
| English Lang/Comp | 16 | 15 |
| English Lit/Comp | 5 | 5 |
| European History | 11 | 7 |
| French Lang | 6 | 2 |
| Italian Lang | 2 | 2 |
| Latin Vergil | 1 | 0 |
| Physics C-Mech | 3 | 3 |
| U.S. History | 23 | 19 |
| Total Pupils Tested | 64 | % Of Total |
| Scores of 5: | 17 | 19% |
| Scores of 4: | 28 | 31% |
| Scores of 3: | 29 | 32% |
| Scores below 3: | 16 | 18% |

TOTAL TESTS ADMINISTERED: 90

SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST (SAT) 2008 College Bound Seniors

| | Critical Read | Math | Writing |
|--|---------------|------------|------------|
| 750-800 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| 700-740 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| 650-690 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 600-640 | 17 | 14 | 15 |
| 550-590 | 18 | 9 | 15 |
| 500-540 | 17 | 24 | 21 |
| 450-490 | 22 | 26 | 20 |
| 400-440 | 23 | 20 | 21 |
| Below 400 | 16 | 17 | 20 |
| Mean: (as reported by ETS) | 503 | 496 | 497 |
| Percentage of Graduates Tested: | | | 45% |

ACCEPTANCES OFFERED TO THE CLASS OF 2008

Adelphi University
 Amer. International College
 Anna Maria College
 Arizona State
 Assumption College
 Bay Path College
 Becker College
 Boston University
 Bridgewater State College
 Bryant College
 Campbell University
 Clark University
 Colby Sawyer College
 College of New Jersey
 College of New Rochelle
 College of St. Rose
 Cornell University
 Eastern Nazarene College
 Elms College
 Embry Riddle
 Emerson College
 Fitchburg State
 Flagler College
 Florida Atlantic University
 Furman College
 Gordon College
 Hofstra University
 Holyoke Community College
 Hunter College
 Ithaca College
 Jacksonville University

Johnson & Wales University
 Lasell College
 James Madison University
 Manhattanville College
 Marietta College
 Mass College of Liberal Arts
 Mass College of Pharmacy
 Mass Maritime Academy
 Merrimack College
 Montclair State University
 Mount Holyoke College
 New England Inst of Tech
 New York University
 Newbury College
 Nichols College
 Northeastern University
 Pace University
 Purdue University
 Quinnipiac College
 Rider University
 Roger Williams University
 Rollins College
 Rutgers University
 Sacred Heart University
 St. Leo University
 St. Michael's College
 Salem State College
 Salve Regina University
 Siena College
 Smith College
 Southern CT University

Springfield College
 Springfield Tech Comm College
 State University of New York
 at Albany
 at Binghamton
 Stetson University
 Suffolk University
 Trinity College
 Unity College
 University of Connecticut
 University of Hartford
 University of Massachusetts at
 Amherst
 Dartmouth
 Lowell
 University of Maine
 University of New Hampshire
 University of New Haven
 University of Rhode Island
 University of South Carolina
 Wellesley College
 Wentworth Inst of Technology
 West Virginia University
 Western New England College
 Westfield State College
 Wheaton College
 Wheelock College
 Winthrop University
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute
 Worcester State College

ACCEPTANCES