

2014 – 2015

WRHS
Registration
Handbook

Wiregrass Ranch High School
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Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Wiregrass Ranch High School for the 2014-2015 school year. The many programs we offer to our students at WRHS, including our iPad Program, IT and Medical Academies, excite us. In addition to the courses offered on our campus, students may take Florida Virtual classes, Pasco eSchool classes, or earn credit through Dual Enrollment at Pasco Hernando State College.

This Registration Handbook has been created to assist you in selecting courses that are appropriate for your grade level and experience. Now is the time to stop, reflect, and consider the opportunities that you have at Wiregrass Ranch High School. Please consider your choices wisely; consider selecting courses that have been recommended by your current teachers as well as courses that interest you. Discuss your decisions with your parents, teachers, and guidance counselors. We ask that you select your courses carefully as requests for changes will be limited to only those absolutely necessary. These course selections help us determine the number of sections we offer and the number of teachers we need to hire to accommodate your requests.

If you have any questions, please contact Student Services.

Sincerely,

Robyn M. White
Principal
Wiregrass Ranch High School

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Academic Honor Code

As a student at Wiregrass Ranch High School, you have entered a community of student scholars and educators who are committed to excellence in education. Take the time to read and think about what you want your education to mean to you. It is assumed that all students will pursue their studies with integrity and honesty. This means that all work for which a student wants to receive a grade, credit or recognition will be the work of the individual student.

Academic honesty is a very serious commitment to make, so please do not do it lightly.

Students have the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the school community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of your class and in the Wiregrass Ranch High School community.

Violations of these infractions will result in severe disciplinary action by your teacher, which will include, but not limited to, a grade of F on the assignment/test, a referral, and parental contact.

Attendance

School attendance and active participation in class are extremely important to learning and success in high school. Teachers need every minute to cover all the required course material. We want all students to arrive on time and remain in school unless legitimately ill or there is a valid reason for missing school. Attendance correlates directly to effective performance in school.

On a daily basis, students' absences will be recorded as unexcused. In order to have a student's absence excused, the parent will need to send a note with the student to be turned in at Student Services within **three school days of returning to school** explaining the absence.

Examples of excused absences include:

- Illness of student or immediate family member
- Major illness in the immediate family of the student
- Religious holiday of the student's faith
- Medical appointments
- Field trips/approved school activities
- Pre-arranged absences of educational value with the principal's approval
- Death in the immediate family of the student
- Subpoena or forced absence by any law enforcement agency

If a student is going to be absent for several days due to illness or a family emergency, the parent can call Student Services and request that homework assignments be collected. This process requires at least 48 hours notice.

Parents will be advised if their child is considered truant or has excessive absences. When a child reaches 15 or more unexcused absences, we will report the child as habitual truant to the Department of Transportation.

Guidance/Student Services

A counselor is assigned to each student by grade level. Students are encouraged to talk to their counselor about their educational, vocational, or personal concerns. An appointment sheet is available in Student Services for students to request an appointment with their counselor.

If a student is experiencing a problem in a course, the best solution is to contact the instructor directly either through email or a phone message. If, however, you need additional assistance or a face-to-face meeting, parent-teacher conferences may be set up with the guidance secretary in Student Services.

Information on acquiring transcripts, scholarship information, as well as college and career planning can be found in the Guidance Section of the Wiregrass Ranch website.

Registration Guidelines

Counselors will meet with students to distribute registration materials. At that time, they will receive information about:

1. Academies and special programs
2. Selecting courses for the coming year
3. Completing the registration form/required teacher recommendations
4. Obtaining parent/guardian signatures

Prior to selecting courses, read through the general information of this handbook to fully understand the information it contains. The students' teachers and counselors will help select the courses that will help each student be successful at Wiregrass Ranch High School and in the student's future.

Make sure the following things have been done PRIOR to registration day:

1. Select six (6) full credits.
2. List at least three full credit alternates on your registration form. This can be any combination of full-year or semester credits. If you don't select alternates, you could be placed in whatever is available, regardless of grade level.
3. Review the registration form with parents/guardians and have them sign the form.
4. Return the Registration form to the assigned teacher BEFORE registration day.

IF STUDENTS DO NOT COMPLETE ALL OF THESE STEPS, HE OR SHE WILL NOT BE REGISTERED FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR!

All information regarding course and graduation requirements is subject to change pending legislation and state mandates. Courses listed in this guide will be dropped/not offered if there is not sufficient demand for the course.

Schedule Change Policy

The information found in the Registration Handbook will aid the students in course selection. Students may not make changes to their schedule unless it is absolutely necessary. All necessary schedule changes should be made no later than June 30, 2014. Hiring is based on schedule requests made during the registration process; therefore, students will remain in elective courses they are placed in at the beginning of the year.

Students in year long courses MUST remain in the course for the entire year. If a student is struggling academically, a parent conference must be scheduled before any changes are made. Students should see their guidance counselor to complete a schedule change form if they need a schedule change (for an approved reason). Parent signatures must accompany the schedule change request, with any documentation supporting the approved reason, and the student must return these to his or her counselor.

After June 30th, there should not be any schedule changes. Of course, any errors will be corrected. Some examples of errors that will be corrected are as follows:

- A course previously passed
- A course out of sequence
- A missing requirement for graduation
- Grade level of classes
- A placement change is needed and directed by a school official

After week 5 (for semester classes) and week 11 (year-long classes), a class can not be dropped or purged from the record because student schedules have been recorded by the Florida Department of Education.

High School Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements are established by the school year that the child enters high school (9th grade). This allows the student to follow one plan for all four years of high school without being impacted by legislative changes. There is also a three-year, 18 credit program available. Students are encouraged to consider their postsecondary education or career plan goals with their family before selecting an option. For more information, contact your guidance counselor.

Students Entering Grade Nine In 2011-12 School Year

Subject Area	Graduation Requirements	
	24-Credit Program	ACCEL Program/Diploma Designations
English/ Language Arts (ELA)	4 credits with major concentration in composition, reading for information, and literature (must pass the Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading or earn a passing concordant score on the ACT or SAT)	ACCEL Program (18 credits minimum) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical education is not required 3 elective credits Online course is not required
Mathematics	4 credits, one of which must be Algebra 1 or its equivalent and one of which must be geometry or its equivalent (must pass Algebra 1 EOC to earn course credit; must take geometry EOC)	All other graduation requirements for a standard diploma must be met (per s. 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e), F.S.).
Science	3 credits in science, two of which must have a laboratory component and one of which must be Biology 1 or an equivalent course or a series of courses (must take Biology 1 EOC)	Scholar Designation In addition to meeting the standard high school diploma requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 credit in world history 1 credit in U.S. history .5 credit in U.S. government .5 credit in economics (must include financial literacy)
World Languages	Not required for high school graduation, but required for admission into state universities	
Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts	1 credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts (eligible courses specified in the Florida Course Code Directory)	
Physical Education	1 credit in physical education to include the integration of health	
Industry Certification	Not required	Merit Designation
Electives	8 credits	In addition to meeting the standard high school diploma requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.).
Grade Point Average (GPA)	Cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale	
Online Course	1 course within the 24 credits	
Special Notes: EOC, End-of-Course Assessment; AP, advanced placement; AICE, Advanced International Certificate of Education; IB, International Baccalaureate.		

High School Grade Classification

Students will be classified as follows:

1st Semester

Fewer than 5 credits	Freshman (9th grade)
5 Credits	Sophomore (10th grade)
11 Credits	Junior (11th grade)
17 Credits and 2.0000 cumulative	Senior (12th grade)

2nd Semester

Fewer than 5 credits	Freshman
6 Credits	Sophomore
12 Credits	Junior
21 Credits and 2.0000 cumulative	Senior

Students Entering Grade Nine In 2012-13 School Year

Subject Area	Graduation Requirements	
	24-Credit Program	ACCEL Program/Diploma Designations
English/ Language Arts (ELA)	4 credits with major concentration in composition, reading for information, and literature (must pass the Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading or earn a passing concordant score on the ACT or SAT)	ACCEL Program (18 credits minimum) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical education is not required 3 elective credits Online course is not required
Mathematics	4 credits, one of which must be Algebra 1 or its equivalent and one of which must be geometry or its equivalent (must pass Algebra 1 EOC to earn course credit; must take geometry EOC)	All other graduation requirements for a standard diploma must be met (per s. 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e), F.S.).
Science	3 credits in science, two of which must have a laboratory component and one of which must be Biology 1 or an equivalent course or a series of courses (must take Biology 1 EOC)	Scholar Designation In addition to meeting the standard high school diploma requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the ELA Grade 11 Common Core assessment once implemented 1 credit in Algebra 2 1 credit in statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course Pass the Biology 1 EOC 1 credit in chemistry or physics 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to chemistry or physics Pass the U.S. History EOC Assessment 2 credits in the same world language Earn at least one credit in AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course.
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 credit in world history 1 credit in U.S. history (U.S. history EOC results count 30 % of the final course grade) .5 credit in U.S. government .5 credit in economics (must include financial literacy) 	Merit Designation In addition to meeting the standard high school diploma requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.).
World Languages	Not required for high school graduation, but required for admission into state universities	
Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts	1 credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts (eligible courses specified in the Florida Course Code Directory)	
Physical Education	1 credit in physical education to include the integration of health	
Industry Certification	Not required	
Electives	8 credits	
Grade Point Average (GPA)	Cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale	
Online Course	1 course within the 24 credits	

Special Notes: EOC, End-of-Course Assessment; AP, advanced placement; AICE, Advanced International Certificate of Education; IB, International Baccalaureate.

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Students Entering Grade Nine In 2013-14 School Year

Subject Area	Graduation Requirements	
	24-Credit Program	ACCEL Program/Diploma Designations
English/ Language Arts (ELA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 credits in ELA 1, 2, 3, 4 ELA honors, AP, AICE, IB, and dual enrollment courses may satisfy this requirement (must pass the Grade 10 ELA Common Core assessment; must take ELA Grade 11 Common Core assessment when implemented) 	<p>ACCEL Program (18 credits minimum)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical education is not required 3 elective credits Online course is not required • <p>All other graduation requirements for a standard diploma must be met (per s. 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e), F.S.).</p>
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 credits, one of which must be Algebra 1 and one of which must be geometry (Algebra 1 EOC results count 30% of the final course grade; must pass to earn a standard diploma; geometry EOC results count 30% of the final course grade) If Algebra 2 is selected, Algebra 2 Common Core assessment results count 30% of the final course grade when implemented Industry certification courses that lead to college credit may substitute for up to 2 mathematics credits 	<p>Scholar Designation</p> <p>In addition to meeting the standard high school diploma requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the ELA Grade 11 Common Core assessment once implemented 1 credit in Algebra 2 (must pass Algebra 2 EOC) 1 credit in statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course Pass the Biology 1 EOC 1 credit in chemistry or physics 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to chemistry or physics Pass the U.S. History EOC Assessment 2 credits in the same world language Earn at least one credit in AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course.
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 credit in Biology 1 (Biology EOC results count 30% of the final course grade) 2 credits in equally rigorous science courses 2 of the 3 required science credits must have a laboratory component Industry certification courses that lead to college credit may substitute for up to 1 science credit 	<p>Merit Designation</p> <p>In addition to meeting the standard high school diploma requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.).
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 credit in world history 1 credit in U.S. history (U.S. history EOC results count 30% of the final course grade) .5 credit in U.S. government .5 credit in economics (must include financial literacy) 	
World Languages	Not required for high school graduation, but required for admission into state universities	
Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts	1 credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts (eligible courses specified in the Florida Course Code Directory)	
Physical Education	1 credit in physical education to include the integration of health	
Industry Certification	Not required	
Electives	8 credits	
Grade Point Average (GPA)	Cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale	
Online Course	1 course within the 24 credits, excluding a driver education course	

Special Notes: EOC, End-of-Course Assessment; AP, advanced placement; AICE, Advanced International Certificate of Education; IB, International Baccalaureate.

Information for students entering the ninth grade in 2014-2015 School Year was not released by the state at time of publication.

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

The Florida Lottery funds the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. Complete information regarding this program can be found on the web at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org.

Students must apply for a Bright Futures Scholarship by submitting a completed Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) after December First of their senior year at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org.

For more Bright Futures specific award information, contact Bright Futures toll-free at

1-888-827-2004 or at the website www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org.

Students and parents may monitor Florida Bright Future Scholarship status at www.FACTS.org.

Community Service

"Community Service" is altruistic in nature, with the goal of benefiting the community and its needs. Community service hours are to be completed outside of the student's regular school and/or work schedule(s) and must be non-paid. Students should look for opportunities that interest them (Local schools, hospitals, nursing homes, YMCA, churches, Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc.).

Why do you need Community Service?

*100 hours are required for the Florida Academic Scholar Bright Futures Scholarship

*75 hours are required for the Florida Medallion Scholar Bright Futures Scholarship

*30 hours are required for the Vocational Gold Seal Scholarship

*looks good on college and scholarship applications

Advanced Placement (AP)

AP is a program of college-level courses and exams that gives high school students the opportunity to receive advanced placement and/or credit in college. Almost 50 percent of the nation's 21,000 high schools offer some college-level AP course work, and more than 400,000 students participate in the AP program each year.

Students may earn high school and college credit simultaneously by successfully completing these courses and by scoring a 3 or better on the AP exam. Refer to the course descriptions section of this booklet for the available courses and to your college or university of choice for their requirements.

Dual Enrollment (DE)

Through an articulation agreement with Pasco-Hernando State College (PHSC), students are permitted to take approved course work through PHCC and receive college credit. Students must have a cumulative unweighted 3.0000 GPA to take academic courses or an unweighted 2.0000 GPA to take technical courses. For most courses, students must have an acceptable standardized test score from one of the following: PERT, College Placement Test (CPT), SAT, or ACT. Students must demonstrate through their test score that they have the ability to be successful in completing the chosen class(es). Students applying for dual enrollment classes must have their parents' and counselor's approval. The students and parents must complete an application, produce documentation from the high school of the required GPA, provide test scores, and complete a request for classes to be considered for dual enrollment. Upon acceptance, students may take classes at no charge.

Students who consider taking dual enrollment courses should be socially mature and able to handle the requirements for college. Study habits should be strong and consistent. Students should be able to balance other activities with the college courses. Course work completed through PHSC becomes part of the student's official college transcript.

There are registration deadlines for dual enrollment. Please refer to the WRHS website for detailed requirements and procedures. Students interested in dual enrollment should see their guidance counselor for paperwork and approval. PHSC academic advisors are also available for students.

Grade Point Averages

There are two different grade point averages (GPA) that are calculated at the high school. The different GPAs are the class rank GPA and the graduation GPA.

Class Rank GPA

At the end of the seventh semester, a student's class rank GPA is calculated by averaging semester grades earned in all courses during the regular school day (including any replacement grades). It should be noted that students cannot repeat courses where a C or higher was earned.

If a year long course is passed and one of the semester grades is an F, then the final grade will be doubled for the GPA calculation. The Class Rank GPA will exclude courses taken prior to ninth grade, beyond the 6 courses in the school day, approved summer programs, approved college or university programs, or in adult education. These grades will be part of the student's transcript but will not be calculated in the class rank GPA. Class Rank GPA will be carried out to five decimal places and rounded to the fourth decimal place. The GPA is calculated by taking the quality points a student has earned and divided by the number of semester grades used. It is displayed below for your reference.

The class rank GPA includes any weight given to courses during day school.
These courses will receive Quality points as follows:

A = 4
B = 3
C = 2
D = 1
F = 0

Classes identified as Honors and Pre-International Baccalaureate courses will receive quality points as follows:

A = 4.5
B = 3.5
C = 2.5
D = 1.5
F = 0

Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate taken and Dual Enrollment courses will receive quality points as follows:

A = 5
B = 4
C = 3
D = 2
F = 0

Graduation GPA

An unweighted 2.0000 GPA on a 4.0000 GPA scale is needed for a student to graduate. All quality points are based on the following scale:

A = 4 B = 3 C = 2 D = 1 F = 0

The graduation GPA is calculated based on all courses taken. **Note: The graduation GPA will include any failed courses that were not retaken or replaced for grade forgiveness.** Any grade for a course repeated for credit will replace the former grade in the GPA calculation. It should be noted that students cannot repeat courses where a grade of C or higher was earned. Students are not permitted to repeat a course in summer school unless the course was failed during the school year. If a year long course is passed and one of the semester grades is an F, then the final grade will be doubled for the GPA calculation.

Please note that the Class Rank GPA and the Graduation GPA are used at the high school. Other GPAs are calculated by other institutions. Examples are the calculation for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarships by the Department of Education and an academic GPA, which is calculated by post-secondary schools for college admissions.

Grade Forgiveness

A student must retake any failed course specifically required for graduation. The course is usually available in the regular school day, in adult education or through Florida Virtual School. A student may retake or replace any failed elective course. When the failed course is retaken, quality points are added to the GPA numerator, but the semester unit (quality point) is not added to the GPA denominator.