



WESTBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

2017-2018 SCHOOL PROFILE

90 West Main Street, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581
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**SCHOOL COUNSELING
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SCHOOL COUNSELORS
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MISSION STATEMENT

Effective teaching and learning balances content and skills, encouraging critical and creative thinking. This requires expectations that challenge all community members to work hard to achieve their greatest potential. We need to communicate effectively and encourage the use of appropriate tools and technologies to share ideas and solve problems. By keeping an open mind while engaging and collaborating with our diverse population, we foster acceptance, appreciation and ultimately empathy. We strive to be responsible, informed citizens who make ethical decisions and honor our commitments. Every member of this community can achieve the greatest academic, civic and social growth by following these beliefs.

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Public high school; a staff of 169; grades 9-12, with 273 seniors, approximately 1,140 students total; accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

COMMUNITY

Westborough is a town of 18,000+ residents, located right next to the technology corridor of I-495 and 36 miles west of Boston. The community is composed of professionals and their families who strongly support their schools. Expenditure per pupil is approximately \$14,700.

RECOGNITION STATEMENT

The Westborough Public Schools are recognized for their academic rigor and social action. In 2016, *Newsweek* ranked Westborough High School 5th Best Public High School in Massachusetts and 95th in the United States. In 2017, *Boston Magazine* ranked the Westborough Public Schools the 13th "Best School System" in Massachusetts. Also in 2017, the WHS Chapter of Best Buddies was named National Chapter of the Year.

ALERT: WHS GPA CALCULATION HAS CHANGED

The Weighted GPA calculation for the Class of 2018 and beyond has changed. It may be lower than previous graduates with equal academic performance. See the second page of this profile for calculation details as well as how it affects this year's graduates compared to the Class of 2017.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Class of 2017: 24 credits, which include:

ENGLISH	4 years
HISTORY	3 years (including 2 years of U.S. History)
MATH	3 years
SCIENCE	3 years (including 2 labs)
PE	4 semesters
HEALTH	1 semester

Students must also earn a passing grade in the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exams in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science.

POST-SECONDARY ATTENDANCE %

	2015	2016	2017
FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES	85.0	90.8	87.4
TWO-YEAR COLLEGES/ TRAINING PROGRAMS	9.2	5.2	6.1
*OTHER	5.8	4.0	6.5

*Includes Post Graduate School, Military, Work, Gap Year, etc.

Members of the Class of 2017 (246 graduates) are enrolled in 102 different colleges/universities, distributed over 24 states and DC, as well as in three foreign countries.

For a list of recent college acceptances, visit http://bit.ly/WHS_Colleges.

PLEASE NOTE: WEIGHTED GPA CALCULATION HAS CHANGED

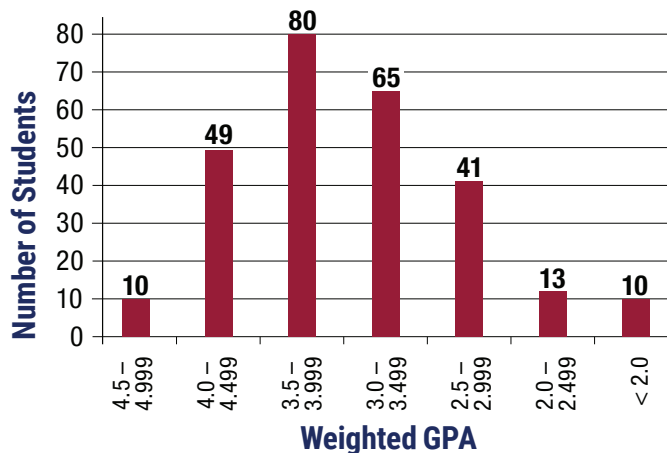
Westborough High School's Weighted GPA Calculation has changed, beginning with the Class of 2018. Among the changes, the new calculation reduces the value of the weight given for Honors and Accelerated/AP courses by 50%. This results in noticeably lower GPA's for a majority of students when compared to similarly performing students from last year. Please see below for details on our new weighting system, as well as a comparison of GPA's-by-decile between this year and last year.

Students in the Class of 2018, in the:		
TOP 10%	Have a LOWER average Weighted GPA by:	0.52
TOP 20%		0.42
TOP 30%		0.33
TOP 40%		0.26
TOP 50%		0.20
TOP 60%		0.11
TOP 70%	Have virtually THE SAME average Weighted GPA	
TOP 80%		
TOP 90%	Are HIGHER	0.16
TOP 100%	by:	0.16

When compared to the same decile from the Class of 2017.

WHS Class of 2018 – Weighted GPA Distribution

(268 Students with WHS GPA's)



GPA SCALE

Unweighted GPA

(Equivalent to Level 3)

A+	4.3	C+	2.3
A	4.0	C	2.0
A-	3.7	C-	1.7
B+	3.3	D+	1.3
B	3.0	D	1.0
B-	2.7	D-	0.7
		F	0.0

Weighted GPA

(Class of 2018 and Beyond)

L5 – AP/ACC	Add 1.0
L4 – Hon	Add 0.5
L3 – CPI	No Difference
L2 – CPII	Subtract 0.5

GRADING PHILOSOPHY

Westborough teachers do not inflate grades. In addition, it is common for AP students to receive a B or even a C and still earn a 4 or 5 on their AP exam. WHS does not calculate class rank.

DESCRIPTION OF LEVELS

Level 5 – AP/Accelerated: Courses are highly rigorous and move at a fast pace. Courses incorporate the challenge and higher order thinking skills—synthesis, analysis, evaluation, and creation—required at the college level. Accelerated courses are available in some subjects if WHS does not offer an AP equivalent.

Levels 4, 3 & 2 – Honors, CPI & CPII: Courses require moderate to extensive intellectual development and outside preparation. These courses are designed to prepare students for colleges and postsecondary opportunities of all kinds. Additional expectations at the Honors level include substantial independent work and a high level of intellectual challenge.

Level 0 – Unleveled: A variety of electives are available for students that do not count in their GPA. Required PE courses are also unleveled.

A list of courses offered at Levels 4 and 5 appears on the last page of this profile.

Pre-requisites for Level 4 & 5 classes are stringent. Students typically must earn an A- or better to move up into these levels in a given subject the following year.

CURRICULUM FEATURES

Senior English Seminars: Seniors not taking AP English select two semester-long seminars of their choice in a variety of topics for their required English credit. Seminars available this year are: Adventure Lit, Contemporary Lit, Dystopian Lit, Film As Lit, Hero's Journey, Philosophy Lit, Poetry, Psych in Lit, & War in Lit.

Student Assistants: Student Assistants are given challenging work by teachers/mentors that extends beyond our curriculum and develops critical skills that connect to career demands and can take place in the surrounding communities.

Independent Study: Students who want to extend their curricular options may propose an Independent Study with a WHS teacher. Independent Studies are rich in curricular content and typically offered at Level 4 or 5.

Grade 9 History: This course is heterogeneous and only available at Level 3 (CPI). All WHS students take this class in 9th grade.

Lab Science: All Science courses at WHS are considered lab sciences, including the following subjects: Natural Science and Engineering, Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy and Physiology, Forensics, Oceanography, and Exercise Physiology.

STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE AT WHS

The WHS curricular program offers breadth of knowledge and analysis beyond the content standards. This empowers students to perform with a high rate of academic success both in and out of the classroom.

MASSACHUSETTS COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (MCAS) PERFORMANCE – CLASS OF 2018

Percentage of Students Scoring “Advanced” (The Top Rating on Massachusetts’ State Exams)

	WHS	State
ELA	80	47
MATHEMATICS	80	54
SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY	61	29

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SEMI-FINALISTS	6
ADDITIONALLY COMMENDED	16

SAT MEAN SCORES FOR THE CLASS OF 2017

(218 WHS Test Takers, Most Recent Exam Taken)

SECTION	WHS	State	Nation
EBRW	611	553	538
MATHEMATICS	617	550	533

SAT SUBJECT TEST MEAN SCORES FOR THE CLASS OF 2017

Exams With at Least 5 Test Takers

EXAM	# Students	Mean Score
CHEMISTRY	21	670
ECOLOGICAL BIOLOGY	9	651
LITERATURE	15	679
MATH I	21	630
MATH II	46	710
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	25	740
PHYSICS	8	680
U.S. HISTORY	33	703

AP EXAM SCORE DISTRIBUTION FOR 2016-2017

259 students took 525 total exams.

Students earned 3 or better on 90.7% of exams.

Students earned 4 or better on 70.9% of exams.

Exams with at least 5 Test Takers

EXAM	5	4	3	2	1
TOTAL EXAMS	189	183	104	27	22
BIOLOGY	21	33	13	2	0
CHEMISTRY	1	6	10	1	0
CHINESE LANGUAGE	6	0	4	2	6
COMPUTER SCIENCE A	11	5	1	0	0
COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES	7	6	5	0	0
ECONOMICS: MACROECONOMICS	7	17	3	0	4
ECONOMICS: MICROECONOMICS	6	12	3	1	0
ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION	16	14	9	0	0
FRENCH LANGUAGE	0	4	7	0	0
MATHEMATICS: CALCULUS AB	21	11	6	1	0
MATHEMATICS: CALCULUS BC	16	2	0	0	0
MUSIC THEORY	3	3	3	2	0
*PHYSICS 1	3	10	11	7	5
*PHYSICS C: MECHANICS	2	1	2	0	0
PSYCHOLOGY	21	19	10	3	2
STATISTICS	24	16	9	5	2
STUDIO ART: 2-D DESIGN	1	5	0	0	0
STUDIO ART: DRAWING	3	4	2	0	0
*UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	2	2	2	2	1
UNITED STATES HISTORY	15	13	2	2	0

*Taken as Virtual High School (VHS) Courses

ACT – MEAN SCORES FOR THE CLASS OF 2017

(148 WHS Test Takers)

	WHS	State	Nation
ENGLISH	26.4	25.4	20.3
MATHEMATICS	26.8	25.3	20.7
READING	26.2	25.9	21.4
SCIENCE	25.4	24.7	21.0
COMPOSITE	26.3	25.4	21.0

COURSES AVAILABLE AT THE HONORS (4) OR ACCELERATED/AP (5) LEVEL

English 9-10 (4)
English 11 (4,5)
Senior Seminars (4)
English Lit and Comp (5)
Journalism (4)
Reflective Writing (4)
Empower Your Writing (4)

Geometry (4,5)
Algebra 2 (4,5)
Pre-Calculus (4,5)
Calculus (4,5)
Statistics (4,5)

Physical Sci. (4)
Biology (4,5)

Chemistry (4,5)
Physics (4)
Anat. & Phys. (4)
US History (4,5)
Psychology (4,5)
Facing History (4)
The World Since 1989 (4)

Chinese 2-4 (4)
Chinese Language (5)
French 2-4 (4)
French Language (5)
Le Monde Francophone (4)
Spanish 2-4 (4)
Spanish Language (5)

Mundo Hispano (4)
Computer Science (4,5)
Web Design (4)
Java Programming (4)
Python Programming (4)

Accounting 1-2 (4)
Business Law (4)
Economics (5)

2D & 3D Arts (5)
Drawing 2 (4)
Pottery 2-4 (4)
Modernism (4)
Music Theory 2 (4,5)

American Music History (4)
Theatre Arts 2 (4)
Theatrical Ensemble (4)
Film and Society (4)

Intro to Engineering (4)
Engineering Design (4)
Materials Engineering (4)
Applied Engineering 1-2 (4)
Desktop Manufacturing (4)

Logical Reasoning (4)
Gender Studies (4)
Virtual High School-VHS (4,5)
Independent Study (4,5)



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