



WESTBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

2018-2019 SCHOOL PROFILE

90 West Main Street, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581
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whs.westboroughk12.org | CEEB-CODE 222300

**SCHOOL COUNSELING
DEPARTMENT CHAIR**
Ross Wolfson

PRINCIPAL
Brian Callaghan

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS
Jessica Barrett • Matthew Lefebvre

SCHOOL COUNSELORS
Kristen Caira • Donna Goodliffe
Mirjam Lengauer • KC Sylvestre
Tara Vavruska

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 175; grades 9-12, with 272 seniors, approximately 1,150 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 \$15,600.

RECOGNITION STATEMENT

The Westborough Public Schools are regularly recognized for their academic rigor and social action. In the most recent *Newsweek* rankings in 2016, WHS was named 5th Best Public High School in MA and 95th in the US. In 2017, WHS was named as a Commendation School for closing achievement gaps on the MCAS (our state exams). That same year, the WHS Chapter of Best Buddies was named National Chapter of the year. And most recently, *Boston Magazine* ranked the Westborough Public Schools as the 13th Best School System in MA in 2018.

ALERT: WHS GPA CALCULATION HAS CHANGED

The Weighted GPA calculation for all graduates after 2017 has changed. It may be lower than graduates from 2017 or earlier 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 2019: 24 credits, which include:

ENGLISH	4 years
HISTORY	3 years (<i>Including 2 years of U.S. History</i>)
MATH	3 years
SCIENCE	3 years (<i>All WHS Science Courses are Lab Courses</i>)
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 %

	2016	2017	2018
FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES	90.8	87.4	89.3
TWO-YEAR COLLEGES/ TRAINING PROGRAMS	5.2	6.1	3.7
*OTHER	4.0	6.5	7.0

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

Members of the Class of 2018 (270 graduates) are enrolled in 112 different colleges/universities, distributed over 25 states and DC, as well as in two foreign countries.

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

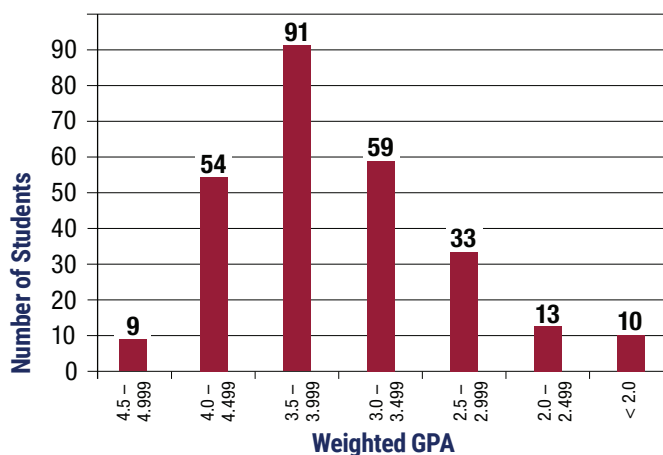
PLEASE NOTE: WEIGHTED GPA CALCULATION HAS CHANGED

Westborough High School's Weighted GPA Calculation has changed for all classes after 2017. 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 2017. Please see below for details on our new weighting system, as well as a comparison of GPA's-by-decile between this year and 2017.

Current WHS Students in the:			
TOP 10%	Have a LOWER average Weighted GPA by approximately:	0.50	When compared to the same decile from the Class of 2017.
TOP 20%		0.40	
TOP 30%		0.35	
TOP 40%		0.25	
TOP 50%		0.20	
TOP 60%		0.10	
TOP 70%	Have virtually THE SAME average Weighted GPA		
TOP 80%			
TOP 90%	Are HIGHER by approximately:	0.15	
TOP 100%		0.15	

WHS Class of 2019 – Weighted GPA Distribution

(269 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

(For All Classes After 2017)

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, Dystopian Lit, Film As Lit, Hero's Journey, Philosophy Lit, Poetry, Psych in Lit, Satire, Shakespeare Seminar, & 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 2019

Percentage of Students Scoring "Advanced" (The Top Rating on Massachusetts' State Exams)

	WHS	State
ELA	80	47
MATHEMATICS	86	53
SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY	63	32

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CLASS OF 2019

SEMI-FINALISTS	5
ADDITIONALLY COMMENDED	23
NATIONAL HISPANIC RECOGNITION PROGRAM SCHOLARS	2

SAT MEAN SCORES FOR THE CLASS OF 2017

(218 WHS Test Takers, Most Recent Exam Taken)

2018 scores not yet available.

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

2018 scores not yet available.

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 2017-2018

284 students took 539 total exams.

In courses taught by WHS Faculty:

- Students earned 3 or better on 93.2% of exams.
- Students earned 4 or better on 75.8% of exams.

Exams with at least 5 Test Takers, Courses Taught by WHS Faculty

EXAM	5	4	3	2	1
TOTAL EXAMS	186	195	91	39	28
BIOLOGY	17	34	12	2	0
CHEMISTRY	20	17	6	4	0
CHINESE LANGUAGE	2	1	1	1	1
COMPUTER SCIENCE A	4	6	1	0	1
COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES	4	11	2	1	0
ECONOMICS: MACROECONOMICS	13	9	10	1	1
ECONOMICS: MICROECONOMICS	9	12	5	1	0
ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION	8	13	8	1	0
FRENCH LANGUAGE	6	5	1	0	0
MATHEMATICS: CALCULUS AB	25	15	4	2	0
MATHEMATICS: CALCULUS BC	17	3	0	2	0
PSYCHOLOGY	13	25	13	5	3
SPANISH LANGUAGE	5	2	0	0	0
STATISTICS	11	15	8	2	1
STUDIO ART: 2-D DESIGN	1	3	1	0	0
STUDIO ART: DRAWING	0	2	6	0	0
UNITED STATES HISTORY	20	11	5	0	0

ACT – MEAN SCORES FOR THE CLASS OF 2017

(148 WHS Test Takers)

2018 scores not yet available.

	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

English 9-10 (4)
English 11 (4,5)
Senior Seminars (4)
English Lit and Comp (5)
Journalism 1-3 (4)
Reflective Writing (4)
Empower Your Writing (4)
Creative Writing (4)

Math

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

Science

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

Chemistry (4,5)
Physics (4)
Anat. & Phys. (4)

History

US History (4,5)
Psychology (4,5)
Facing History (4)
The World Since 1989 (4)
World War II (4)

Language

Mandarin Chinese 2-4 (4)
Chinese Language (5)
French 2-4 (4)
French Language (5)
Le Monde Francophone (4)
Spanish 2-4 (4)
El Mundo Hispano (4)

Computers

Computer Science (4,5)
Web Design (4)
Java Programming (4)
Python Programming (4)
Tech Support Design (4)

Business

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

Fine Arts

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)
Shakespeare Text (4)

Industrial Technology

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

Additional

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



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