

Board Report**Jim Knott –High School Principal****Douglas County West High School****March 11, 2024**

We are almost halfway through March and that means the third quarter is coming to a close. The following are some important upcoming dates at the high school.

- *March 7 – End of Third Quarter
- *March 18-22 – Spring Break
- *March 26 – State Junior NeSA-ACT, Freshman/Sophomore Practice ACT, Seniors Off
- *March 30 – Junior/Senior Prom, A View @ West Shores 7:00-10:00
- *April 24 – Leadership Dinner / NHS 6:30
- *April 30 – Fine Arts Awards Night 6:30
- *May 3 – Senior Scholarship Breakfast
- *May 6 & 7 – Senior Final Exams
- *May 8 – Senior Last Day / Graduation Practice
- *May 12 – Graduation 2:00
- *May 22 & 23 (or May 23 & 24 based on snow day school cancellations) – Tentative Final Exams / Student Last Days

The Junior NeSA-ACT / 9-10 Practice ACT testing plan has been set. On March 26, freshmen and sophomores will be taking and self-scoring the Practice ACT test while juniors will be taking the State NeSA-ACT test. Seniors do not have school on March 26. The DC West NeSA-ACT composite average last year was 20.9. We continued this year to incentivize John Baylor Test Prep classes by having students set individual ACT composite score goals. If students took John Baylor and met or exceeded their individual composite goal, they will not be required to take final exams this spring.

Ms. Thomas and Mrs. Remmick are sponsoring a 10-day student trip to Italy slated for June of 2026. The DC West School group is partnering with the Education First Travel Company to plan and organize the this opportunity. Forty-four people, including six chaperones have committed to make the trip. Students will have several opportunities to fundraise leading up to the excursion to lessen their individual costs.

Listed on pages 2-5 of this report are the additional electives we are looking into at this time. As always, new offerings will depend on student interest.

DC West High School
24-25 New Course Descriptions

Omaha History

Duration: Semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: An in-depth look at Omaha from its founding up to today, looking at how it reflects national history while at the same time looking at the unique forces that help Omaha develop into the unique city that is. It will look at the key people, events, and groups of people that built the city. Through field study students can look for echoes of the past and analyze changes the Omaha area is experiencing today and trends toward the future.

Select Concert Choir

Duration: year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Selected by audition only

Course Description: A vocal music course that will provide a select group of 12-20 students with a more intense musical experience with an emphasis on advanced levels of choral literature, advanced skills of singing and reading music. This group will have performance opportunities outside of the school day in addition to the regular concert schedule. Grading will be based on classroom participation, cooperation, attitude, homework, test, quizzes and performance attendance (required).

Honors Physical Science

Duration: Full year, 2 semesters

Intended Grade Level: 9; course is ½ weighted

Prerequisite: Must have completed Algebra in JH or higher (Geometry)

Course Description: McGraw Hill Inspire Physical Science brings phenomena to the forefront of learning to engage and inspire students to investigate key science concepts through their three-dimensional learning experience. In addition to topics covered in Physical Science, Honors Physical science will cover more complex math and scientific principles such as: Projectile Motion, 2D Kinematics, Thermodynamics, work/energy/power relationships, Coulomb's Law, Electrical Resistance, EM Spectrum, chemical nomenclature, and chemical functional groups(organic)

This program offers hands-on investigations, rigorous science content, and engaging real-world applications in the areas of Motion & Forces, Energy, Waves, Matter, Reactions, and Applications of Chemistry.

Environmental Science

Duration: Full year

Intended Grade Level: 11 & 12

Prerequisite: Biology; Physical Science; instructor permission

Course Description: Environmental Science focuses on making students knowledgeable of the major environmental problems facing humans today. Major emphasis is placed on water and air pollution, sewage, natural resource management, landscape ecology, population dynamics and energy consumption problems. Through this understanding, this course provides information about how to use Earth's resources responsibly in order to leave a healthy environment for future generations. Methods of instruction are lecture, labs, tests and research papers.

Metro Intermediate Algebra

Duration: One Semester

Intended Grade Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Geometry & Algebra II

Course Description: This course extends student algebra skills from previous courses and provides new learning to prepare students for future mathematics courses. Topics included are: functions and their applications; polynomial, radical, exponential, and rational expressions and equations and their applications; systems of linear equations and their applications; operations on complex numbers; graphing linear, piecewise, and quadratic functions; and solving and graphing inequalities.

UNO Medical Math

Duration: One Semester

Intended Grade Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Algebra II; Instructor Permission

Course Description: This course prepares students with the basic mathematical skills required for nursing programs. Topics include: fractions, decimals, percentages, ratios, conversions between measurement systems, dimensional analysis, formulating dosages and flow rates, interpreting drug orders, and nutritional analyses.

Honors Geometry

Duration: One Year

Intended Grade Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Course Description: This is a course in Euclidean Geometry and the study of topics are parallel to those in Geometry. Topics include real world problems involving perimeter, area, volume, and fundamental properties of geometry as they relate to lines, polygons, and circles. The first three trig functions are introduced and used along with Pythagorean Theorem in solving problems. Deductive and inductive reasoning skills are taught in writing 2-column and paragraph proofs. This course is designed to move at a rapid pace with more discovery and depth than Geometry.

Honors Algebra II

Duration: Full year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Course Description: This is a one-year course that develops the skills learned in Algebra. Topics covered include solving equations, order of operations, exponents, signed numbers and radicals. Factoring of polynomials is first introduced here as well as graphing linear equations using the slope-intercept method. This course is designed to move at a rapid pace with more discovery and depth than Algebra II.

Video Game Design

Duration: One Semester

Intended Grade Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Course Description: The Video Game Design course is designed for complete beginners with no previous background in computer science, but does teach advanced topics. The course is highly visual, dynamic, and interactive, making it engaging for new coders.

Mythology, Folklore, and Legends

Duration: One Semester

Intended Grade Level: 12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: In this course, students will look at the captivating stories and legends from different cultures around the world. Students will explore the characters, adventures, and themes that make mythology and folklore so important. We will discover ancient gods, mythical creatures, and timeless tales that have shaped our way of life for centuries. Identify characteristics of myths, folklores, fairy tales, etc., understand the concept of the “Hero’s Journey”, describe the different types of myths, identify the purpose of myths and compare the different types of folklore: legends, folktales, and fairy tales.

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