

Course Selections

Applicant: Ge Gao

It's time to set your course of study for next year! All 9th graders will be enrolled in the following courses:

- English I (M2200) [Full Year] ⓘ
- The World and Europe I (M6200) [Full Year] ⓘ

Please make your preliminary course selections by Wednesday, April 13, 2016. You will be able to revise these in consultation with a dean on Saturday, April 16, 2016. We encourage you to refer to the Curriculum Guide as you complete your course selections.

Academic Core

Mathematics

A strong background in algebra is necessary for all math and science classes at Harvard-Westlake.

Students who are not currently enrolled in nor have ever taken a college preparatory algebra course should select the *Algebra* evaluation. This test will assess student understanding of pre-algebra skills for placement into *Algebra* or *Algebra I*.

Students who are currently enrolled in an Algebra I course should select the *Geometry* evaluation. This test, along with past grades and teacher recommendations, helps the Math Department determine the strength of each students' Algebra I skills, and thus, their appropriate Geometry placement.

Students who are currently enrolled in a Geometry course should select the *Algebra II Honors / Algebra II with Analysis* evaluation. This test will assess Algebra I skills, mastery of Geometry concepts, and critical thinking skills for placement into *Algebra II Honors* or *Algebra II with Analysis*. Students must show academic initiative and view positively the idea of working hard and solving challenging problems in this advanced course.





Students who are currently enrolled in Algebra II or another advanced course should select the *Other* evaluation. These students will be given a test to determine placement into the appropriate math course.

If you wish to discuss math placement further, please contact Sue Olson, Ed.D., head of the math department, at solson@hw.com.

Requirement

One year of Mathematics

Please choose one of the following:

- ☐ Algebra [**Placement Test Required**] 
- ☐ Geometry [**Placement Test Required**] 
- ☐ Algebra II Honors / Algebra II with Analysis [**Placement Test Required**] 
- ☐ Other [**Placement Test Required**] 

Science

Harvard-Westlake offers two levels of biology in the ninth grade. Most students take regular *Biology*, which is a UC accredited, full-year high school laboratory science course. It is a rigorous and demanding course that covers the topics and fundamentals of a first-year high school biology course. Students who are particularly interested in biology and want a great deal of challenge may be interested in the *Biology Honors* course.. Although this course covers similar material to that covered in *Biology*, the pace is faster and the level of detail more complex. Due to the advanced and accelerated nature of the course, independent student learning and initiative are required.

To be considered for placement into *Biology Honors*, students must take a placement test and have their current science teacher complete and send us the Science Teacher Recommendation Form. The placement test covers analysis of complex scientific information using words, math, and graphs and assesses the types of scientific skills and techniques that are required in *Biology Honors*, such as using significant digits, graphing, and scientific notation.



If you do not want to be considered for placement into *Biology Honors* and want to enroll in *Biology*, you do not need to take the science placement test.

If you wish to discuss science placement further, please contact David Cleland, head of the science department, at dcleland@hw.com.

Requirement

Biology (M5200-0) or Biology Honors (M5210-0)

Please choose one of the following:

- ☐ Biology (M5200) [Full Year] 
- ☐ Biology Honors (M5210) [Full Year] [**Placement Test Required**] 

World Languages

Harvard-Westlake requires all new students in the ninth grade to select a world language from among four offerings: *Chinese*, *French*, *Latin*, and *Spanish*. Students with no previous experience will be placed in Level I of their chosen language. Students who have begun the study of *Chinese*, *French*, *Latin*, or *Spanish* at their previous school or who speak one of those languages at home, and who wish to continue the study of that language, should take a placement exam. Ninth grade students who are particularly interested in world language study can opt to take two world languages and can sign up for that additional world language in the Electives section below.









All students are required to complete level three of any language or level two in each of two different languages in order to fulfill the language requirement.

If you wish to discuss world language placement further, please contact Edgar Jurado, head of the World Language Department, at ejurado@hw.com.

Requirement

One year of Chinese, French, Latin, or Spanish

Please choose one of the following:






- ☐ Chinese I (M3010) [Full Year] 
- ☐ French I (M3110) [Full Year] 
- ☐ Latin I (M3310) [Full Year] 
- ☐ Spanish I (M3510) [Full Year] 
- ☐ Continuing Chinese **[Placement Test Required]** 
- ☐ Continuing French **[Placement Test Required]** 
- ☐ Continuing Latin **[Placement Test Required]** 
- ☐ Continuing Spanish **[Placement Test Required]** 

Electives


To maintain a balanced schedule, and to fit the required lunch period, students may take no more than:

- One full year and one semester elective OR
- Two full year electives OR
- Three semester electives




Communications

- ☐ Introduction to Publications (M7220) [Semester] 
- ☐ Introduction to Yearbook Journalism I (M7260) [Semester] 
- ☐ Introduction to Yearbook Journalism II (M7261) [Semester] 
- ☐ News Magazine Journalism (M7211) [Semester] 
- ☐ Student Leadership (M7074) [Full Year] 

English



- ☐ Creative Writing Workshop (M2300) [Semester] 







Computer Science

- ☐ Introduction to Programming I (M7100) [Semester] 
- ☐ Introduction to Programming II (M7110) [Semester] 
- ☐ Middle School Robotics (M7148) [Semester] 

World Languages

Ninth grade students who are particularly interested in world language study can opt to take two world languages. You may choose a SECOND language option below.

- ☐ Chinese I (M3010) [Full Year] 
- ☐ French I (M3110) [Full Year] 

- ☐ Latin I (M3310) [Full Year] 
- ☐ Spanish I (M3510) [Full Year] 
- ☐ Continuing Chinese **[Placement Test Required]** 
- ☐ Continuing French **[Placement Test Required]** 
- ☐ Continuing Latin **[Placement Test Required]** 
- ☐ Continuing Spanish **[Placement Test Required]** 

Performing Arts

Choral Music

Vocal Ensemble and *Madrigals* are the premier choral ensembles at the middle school and are open to 8th and 9th grade girls and boys. Singers do not need to have previous choral experience to join the vocal music program. Students enrolled in these classes also have an opportunity to participate in the annual Vocal Solo Show.

In order to make sure that singers are placed in the appropriate ensemble, **a vocal placement interview is necessary**. During your placement interview, Ms. Burtchaell will get to know you, determine your vocal range, whether you read music or sing by ear, and your goals as a singer. Together, we will determine which ensemble offers the best placement for you. It is not necessary to bring any prepared material to the interview; however, feel free to do so if you wish.



If you have any questions, please contact Nina Burtchaell, choral director, at nburtchaell@hw.com.

- ☐ Vocal Ensemble or Madrigals **[Audition Required]**

Dance

If you would like to be considered for placement in *Contemporary Dance Workshop I or II* or *Dance Production*, please sign up for an audition time. No audition is required for *Introduction to Contemporary Dance*.

Should you have any questions about the dance curriculum, please refer to the curriculum guide or contact Mr. Schenck at 310-288-3288 or jschenck@hw.com.

- ☐ Introduction to Contemporary Dance (M1200) [Full Year] 
- ☐ Contemporary Dance Workshop I (M1210) [Semester] **[Audition Required]** 
- ☐ Contemporary Dance Workshop II or Dance Production **[Audition Required]**

Instrumental Music

Students who already play a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, or double bass) and would like to be considered for *Middle School Concert Strings* or *Middle School Symphony* must complete an audition in order to ensure that they are placed in the appropriate level ensemble.

Students who already play a band instrument (woodwind, brass, or percussion) and would like to be considered for *Concert Band*, *Symphonic Band*, or *Middle School Symphony*, must complete an audition in

order to ensure that they are placed in the appropriate level ensemble.

Students who already play trumpet, trombone, saxophone, piano, guitar, bass, or drums and would like to be considered for *Jazz Band* must complete an audition. There are limited spots in the jazz band this year.

Students who already play guitar, bass guitar, or drums and would like to be considered for *Rhythm Section Workshop* must complete an audition to ensure that they are placed in the appropriate level ensemble.

If you have any questions, please contact Emily Reola, head of the performing arts department, at ereola@hw.com.

- ☐ Beginning Strings (M1400) [Full Year] ⓘ
- ☐ Concert Strings or Symphony (String Instruments) **[Audition Required]** ⓘ
- ☐ Concert Band, Symphonic Band, or Symphony (Woodwind, Brass, Percussion) **[Audition Required]** ⓘ
- ☐ Middle School Jazz Band (M1515) [Full Year] **[Audition Required]** ⓘ
- ☐ Rhythm Section Workshop (M1530) [Full Year] **[Audition Required]** ⓘ

Music Theory ^

- ☐ Music Technology for Musicians I (M1620) [Semester] **[Permission Required]** ⓘ
- ☐ Music Technology for Musicians II (M1625) [Semester] **[Permission Required]** ⓘ

Theater Arts ^

- ☐ Drama Workshop (M1100) [Semester] ⓘ
- ☐ Acting (M1000) [Semester] ⓘ
- ☐ Stagecraft (M1110) [Semester] ⓘ
- ☐ Advanced Stagecraft (M1112) [Semester] ⓘ

Visual Arts

Two-Dimensional Art ^

- ☐ Drawing and Painting: Expression (M0216) [Semester] ⓘ
- ☐ Drawing and Painting: Technique (M0215) [Semester] ⓘ

Three-Dimensional Art ^

- ☐ Introduction to Clay and Glass (M0010) [Semester] ⓘ
- ☐ Introduction to the Potter's Wheel (M0100) [Semester] ⓘ

Media Arts ^

- ☐ Introduction to Animation I (M0400) [Semester] ⓘ
- ☐ Introduction to Animation II (M0410) [Semester] ⓘ
- ☐ Introduction to Digital Photography (M0305) [Semester] ⓘ
- ☐ Introduction to Graphic Design (M7122) [Semester] ⓘ

☐ Introduction to PhotoGraphics (M0310) [Semester] ⓘ

Physical Education / Athletics

Requirement

Six trimesters of Physical Education credit earned while in grades 9-12; three trimesters in grade 9 strongly recommended. Students in ninth grade can earn credit by taking Physical Education 9 (M8009) and/or a Dance class and/or by participating on an interscholastic sports team.

Physical Education

- ☐ Physical Education 9 (M8009) [Fall] ⓘ
- ☐ Physical Education 9 (M8009) [Spring] ⓘ
- ☐ Physical Education 9 (M8009) [Winter] ⓘ

Athletics

- ☐ Athletic Team Student Manager (U8997-3) [Fall]
- ☐ Athletic Team Student Manager (U8997-4) [Winter]
- ☐ Athletic Team Student Manager (U8997-5) [Spring]
- ☐ Basketball - Girls (U8532-3) [Fall]
- ☐ Basketball - Girls (U8532-5) [Spring]
- ☐ Basketball - JV Girls (U8531-4) [Winter] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Cheerleading (U8930-3) [Fall] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Cheerleading (U8930-4) [Winter] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Cheerleading (U8930-5) [Spring] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Cross Country - JV Girls (U8501-3) [Fall] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Drumline (U8940-3) [Fall] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Drumline (U8940-4) [Winter] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Drumline (U8940-5) [Spring] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Equestrian (U8920-3) [Fall] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Equestrian (U8920-4) [Winter] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Equestrian (U8920-5) [Spring] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Fencing (U8902-3) [Fall] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Fencing (U8902-4) [Winter] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Fencing (U8902-5) [Spring] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Field Hockey - Freshman (M8614) [Fall] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Field Hockey - JV (U8611-3) [Fall] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Field Hockey (U8612-5) [Spring]
- ☐ Football - JV (U8701-3) [Fall] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Football (U8702-4) [Winter]
- ☐ Football (U8702-5) [Spring]
- ☐ Golf - Girls (U8622-5) [Spring]
- ☐ Golf - JV Girls (U8621-3) [Fall] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ HWTv (U8993-3) [Fall]
- ☐ HWTv (U8993-4) [Winter]

- ☐ HWTB (U8993-5) [Spring]
- ☐ Soccer - Girls (U8552-3) [Fall]
- ☐ Soccer - Girls (U8552-5) [Spring]
- ☐ Soccer - JV Girls (U8551-4) [Winter] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Softball - JV (U8571-5) [Spring] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Softball (U8572-3) [Fall]
- ☐ Softball (U8572-4) [Winter]
- ☐ Sports Science (ISSSM) (U8994-3) [Fall]
- ☐ Sports Science (ISSSM) (U8994-4) [Winter]
- ☐ Sports Science (ISSSM) (U8994-5) [Spring]
- ☐ Swimming and Diving - Girls (U8582-3) [Fall]
- ☐ Swimming and Diving - Girls (U8582-4) [Winter]
- ☐ Swimming and Diving - JV Girls (U8581-5) [Spring] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Tennis - Girls (U8512-4) [Winter]
- ☐ Tennis - Girls (U8512-5) [Spring]
- ☐ Tennis - JV Girls (U8511-3) [Fall] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Track and Field - Girls (U8602-4) [Winter]
- ☐ Track and Field - JV Girls (U8601-5) [Spring] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Volleyball - Freshman Girls (M8524) [Fall] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Volleyball - Girls (U8522-5) [Spring]
- ☐ Volleyball - JV Girls (U8521-3) [Fall] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Water Polo - Girls (U8542-3) [Fall]
- ☐ Water Polo - JV Girls (U8541-4) [Winter] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Wrestling - JV (U8751-4) [Winter] **Competitive Season**
- ☐ Wrestling (U8752-3) [Fall]
- ☐ Wrestling (U8752-5) [Spring]

Next, schedule placement tests and auditions

Continue