



The Winter Sports School in Park City

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2010 COURSE CATALOG

Vision Statement

The vision of the WSS is to become the leading college preparatory school for dedicated winter sports athletes worldwide

Mission Statement

The mission of the WSS is to realize its vision by providing the WSS students with the tools, support, and balance necessary for them to achieve the highest possible levels of success in education and in life



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WINTER SPORTS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

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Rob Clayton:	Head of School
Eric Janes:	Assistant Head of School
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Joanne Duffy:	College Counselor
Megan Dever:	Office Manager

Winter Sports School Faculty

Cameron Chin:	Art, Group Conditioning Coach
Eric Christiansen:	Art
Joanne Duffy:	English
Rozella Hanek-Cahoon:	History, Spanish
Bill Hokanson:	Science
Eric Janes:	Math, Science
Dave Kaufman:	Art, English, Math
Chris LaCasce:	Math
Chris Sherwin:	Public Speaking, Spanish
Brandon Ture:	Math

Academic Overview

Academics at The Winter Sports School are rigorous. Our primary academic goal is to prepare students for college, but our small class size and overall 4:1 student:teacher ratio also allow us to tailor classes to individual needs and make every attempt to instill in each student a driving curiosity and life-long love of learning.

The Winter Sports School is accredited by the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools (PNAIS) and the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS). It is a member of the National Association of College Admission Counselors (NACAC) and Rocky Mountain Association of College Admission Counselors (RMACAC).

Our students are held to high academic standards. Any grade below 70 percent is considered failing, and students whose grade point averages fall below an acceptable level are not invited to continue with the school.

Curriculum

Each student must complete 24 credits in four years, four of which must be in the English department. A student earns one credit per year in each discipline.

Honors work is available in English, History, Mathematics, and Science. In order to receive the honors designation, a student must do college-level work in addition to the college preparatory curriculum of that particular course. Honors coursework receives no extra weight in GPA calculation.



ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

Winter Sports School students start their academic year in April in order to complete the academic year in November. This innovative schedule provides an uncompromised academic experience while allowing the winter sports athlete to pursue the rigorous travel and training required to compete at the national and international level.

(SAMPLE)

BLOCK 1	April 12 – May 12
BLOCK 2	May 13 – June 15
Day off	May 31 (Memorial Day)
Vacation	June 16 – June 27
BLOCK 3	June 28 – July 28
BLOCK 4	July 29 – September 8
Vacation	August 18 – 27
BLOCK 5	September 9 – October 12
BLOCK 6	October 13 – November 12
GRADUATION	November 12

ENGLISH

The English curriculum seeks to develop each student's ability to think critically and creatively and to express themselves with confidence and clarity in speech and writing. The English program is a continuum of coursework in which reading and writing skills are developed as a student progresses from grade to grade. The goal of the English Department is to teach students to read intelligently and learn to interpret literature and language. The program provides various and challenging assignments to foster these skills.

English 9

Ninth grade English will introduce students to concepts that will be further developed throughout their time at the Winter Sports School. Writing assignments emphasize sentence structure and paragraph construction, with the bulk of student writing focusing on personal experience. Students will also write expository papers throughout the year. Some specific areas of writing will be memoirs, exposure to epic writing, analysis of literature, persuasive writing, Letters

to the Editor, autobiographies, and an end of year portfolio.

English 10

Students will read many literary forms: novels, short stories, plays, and poetry as well as works of non-fiction such as memoir, articles and essays. Students will practice close readings of texts in an effort to develop the necessary critical thinking skills to understand both content and style. Students continue to refine their writing skills in supporting thesis statements with specific details. We concentrate on both form and content in the writing. Prewriting, drafting, and revision are emphasized. Grammar and vocabulary practice are strategically interwoven into each unit of study. Students also review responsible and effective methods of library/Internet investigation, note taking, and documentation in completing an "I Search" project involving direct experience with primary sources. Students will spend an entire block of study working both independently and cooperatively on a Service Learning Project with focus on the experiences of victims of genocide. The students in Honors English 10 are given additional assignments for each unit of study to extend and augment their learning. A sampling of Sophomore English texts include *The Secret Life of Bees*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *Night*, *Survival in Auschwitz*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Othello*, *A Raisin in The Sun*, *A Separate Peace* and *Lord of the Flies*.

English 11

Building on the first two years of English at the Winter Sports School, Junior English continues to develop concepts already introduced to students. American Literature is an integral part of this course, and writing assignments begin to focus more on analysis of readings than on structure and content. The year culminates in a major multi-genre research paper.

English 12

The senior English course covers a historical sampling of novels, poetry, drama, and essays. The course emphasizes critical reading skills and the application of literary themes and characters to the larger world through writing and class



discussion. Students practice a range of writing styles, including literary analyses, personal narratives, original poems and short stories, rhetorical critiques, college application essays, film analyses, and a modified research paper. Students are encouraged to approach writing as a process and to deem revision as the most crucial element of the writing process. Students will continue to build personal vocabulary and grammar skills. A sampling of Senior English texts include *Writing With Style*, *The Brief Bedford Reader*, *Perrine's Sound and Sense*, *King Lear*, *A Thousand Acres*, *Death of A Salesman*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Revolutionary Road*.

HISTORY

History 9: World Civilizations 1

Freshman history combines two areas of study: ancient/early-modern civilizations and physical/human geography. The purpose of the course is to provide factual information concerning the development and geography of religious, political, social and commercial civilizations of the Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance eras that have helped shape contemporary society.

History 10: World Civilizations 2

Sophomore history continues History 9's conceptual basis, focusing on the rise of Europe from the end of the Middle Ages to present day, with three main areas of study: the Renaissance, the French and Industrial Revolutions, and the Twentieth Century. Students examine the development of the modern state, the relationship between social/political forces and culture, and continue developing historical skills.

History 11: History of the Americas 1

Junior history covers United States history from Columbus's discovery of America to Reconstruction. The course is split into four main areas of study: The Discovery of a Nation, The Making of a Nation, Native Americans and the West, and concludes with The Civil War. Students learn to develop critical thinking skills and assess history through different points of view.

History 12: History of the Americas 2

This course covers U.S. history from Reconstruction to the present, focusing on five main themes: race, gender, government, foreign policy (with particular emphasis on Latin America) and the environment. Students develop highly tuned critical thinking skills, looking at controversial issues throughout US history and drawing their own conclusions.

LANGUAGE

The Language Department currently offers Spanish only. Students are placed in sections according to their level of prior achievement and general aptitude.

Spanish 1

This course will lay the foundation of vocabulary and grammar. Students will become familiar with the four language skills of speaking, reading, writing and oral comprehension. Hispanic culture will be interwoven into the curriculum.

Spanish 2

This course will increase the students' vocabulary, conversational and grammatical skills. They will engage in more extensive conversations. Students will increase their exposure to Hispanic cultures.

Spanish 3

Students will increase their ability to use and understand intermediate Spanish in a variety of spoken and written contexts. They will use a more sophisticated language structure while broadening their vocabulary and include more varied expressions. Students will continue to learn about Hispanic society and life.

Spanish 4

This course endeavors to teach the entire class in Spanish and to prepare students for college level courses and eventual fluency. Students will become experienced in the complex tenses such as present perfect and subjective.



MATH

Through the teaching of basic skills and concepts, the mathematics curriculum strives to respond to the prior experience, current knowledge, aspirations, and learning style of each student.

Algebra I

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed pre-algebra. The course will prepare students for Algebra II and create an understanding of how to apply mathematics. Topics covered include translating written statements into equations and inequalities, using number lines, solving linear equations and inequalities, proportional reasoning, graphing functions, and an introduction to polynomials.

Algebra II

This course presents a more in-depth study of the topics included in Algebra I. Students will study functions and relations, the development of formulas and their applications, conics, matrices, etc. Graphing calculators will be used as a means to enhance lesson topics.

Geometry

This course presents a rigorous in-depth study of Euclidean and non-Euclidean geometry with an introduction to trigonometry. Emphasis will be placed on inductive and deductive reasoning. Students will deal with the real world applications of geometry.

Trigonometry

This course presents the study of right triangles and uses the six basic functions to solve actual mathematical problems. Students will focus on the topics of graphs and transformations of the parent functions, solving trigonometric equations and using identities to prove a variety of trigonometric statements. A TI-82 or similar graphing calculator is required.

Calculus

This course is the study of mathematics of the continuum. Both the theory of elementary functions and real world applications of mathematics will be studied. Students will

learn differential and integral calculus plus their applications. A TI-82 or similar graphing calculator is required.

Calculus II

A continuation of Calculus I that covers logarithmic, exponential and other transcendental functions. The course highlights various applications of integration, which builds an understanding of three-dimensional objects and their volumes, by delving into the function and development of the disc and shell methods. Integration techniques and L'Hopital's Rule are also covered. We spend quite a bit of time doing problems in class, learning from mistakes, and working cooperatively to better understand the concepts and their applications.

Economics & Personal Finance

(For Seniors only)

Upon successful completion of this course, you'll be able to perform the mathematical calculations necessary to set appropriate personal budgets, achieve your near- and long-term savings goals, and understand the true cost of taking on personal debts (mortgages, car loans, credit card debt balances, etc.). You'll also gain rudimentary literacy levels with respect to financial instruments and associated jargon. Specific topics include income and taxes, personal budgeting, credit, the time value of money, inflation, investment vehicles, tax deferred accounts, and retirement planning.

SCIENCE

All of the science courses teach the scientific method including hypothesizing, designing experiments, observing, synthesizing and integrating, and drawing conclusions. A lab approach is emphasized throughout the entire curriculum.

Introduction to Physical Sciences

This class is designed as an introduction to the physical sciences; from energy and motion, to the nature and interaction of matter. Numerous class demonstrations bring to life physical concepts designed to spark conversations and



class discussions about the various demonstrated physical laws and principles. Students have the opportunity to do group work near the end of the year to teach a chapter to the rest of the class. Group-taught topics cover magnetism and its uses, electronics and computers, radioactivity and nuclear reactions, and energy sources. Students discover that knowledge from previous chapters comes in handy when teaching their particular chapter.

Biology

This course covers the origin of life, plant and animal life cycles, genetics and the major systems of higher order animals. The course's format emphasizes the assimilation of individual facts into a broader understanding of life. Daily labs will acquaint students with basic laboratory equipment and conduct. Students will keep a laboratory journal of methods and data interpretation throughout the course.

Physics

(Prerequisite: Algebra I)

This is an introductory course of the science that deals with how the world around us actually works. Students will delve heavily into the mathematics and concepts of linear and non-linear movement, atomic make up of matter, and heat.

Geology

Students will be introduced to the basic geological forces that cause erosion and deformation of the earth's crust. They will learn to identify common rocks and minerals, as well as landforms. Local examples will be used whenever possible.

Chemistry

This course provides students with a fundamental understanding of the chemical relationship between all forms of matter. It examines the chemical structure, conservation, and kinetics of matter, as well as quantification methods. Experimentation is conducted using a computer-based laboratory. This setting allows students the opportunity to prepare for experiments just as they would in a non-virtual reality laboratory, right down to choosing the correct apparatus for the job.

ART

Listed below are representative samples of Art courses. Not every course is offered every year. In all courses, students study their subjects in studio atmospheres.

Ceramics I

Introduction to ceramic techniques including wheel throwing, slab and coil hand-building and ceramic sculpture. Through a series of projects and discussions students will explore elements of form, design and surface treatment, as well as being introduced to the glazing and firing process.

Ceramics II

(Prerequisite: Ceramics I)

An intermediate level course where more advanced forms such as bottles, lidded containers and larger sculptures will be explored. Alternative firing processes such as raku and primitive firing will be introduced.

Ceramics III & IV

(Prerequisite: Ceramics II)

Special topics will be explored by the advanced student which may include sculptural forms, large thrown forms, porcelain, glaze mixing and kiln firing. Students will write proposals for the black, but may adjust their direction as their work progresses.

General Art

Introduction to basic two- and three-dimensional elements of art and design. Units covered will include drawing with one- and two-point perspective, drawing objects with shading, hand-built ceramics and linoleum-cut relief print making.

Oil Painting

Students will draw and/or paint on a daily basis. Their work will cover such art as still life, portrait, landscape and abstract forms. In addition, students will study the major periods to include classical, romantic, impressionistic and modern.

Watercolor Painting

Students will learn basic design and color theory through use of transparent watercolors.



Students will draw and/or paint on a daily basis, experimenting with different techniques and styles. Exposure to art history will be integrated into the studio setting.

Printmaking

Students will learn printmaking techniques with an emphasis on linoleum and wood cut block prints. Drawing will be integrated into class and students will print black and white with multi-color print as a final project.

Independent Study / Special Topics

Students may work on special topics through independent study on such subjects as fiber art, sculpture, jewelry, etc. A proposal must be submitted with a contract worked out with instructor. Instructor will set up a schedule for student to meet on a regular basis.

World Art

Students will be introduced to the art of Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Students will study and make art that is traditional to a region, from masks, basket weaving, mosaic to paper cutting.

Videography

(For Seniors only)

Working with a video cameras, students will learn the principles of putting together short films and demo reels, with a focus on sports, athletics, and dialogue (especially interviews). Students will work through the process of conceptualizing, shooting, and editing their own project for use with potential sponsors and college recruiters.