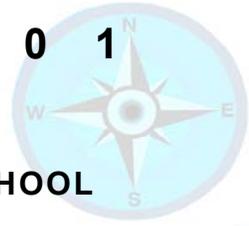

N A V I G A T I O N 1 0 1

GRADE: 8 LESSON: 11

THEME: PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL



LESSON GOALS:

- Discuss what students will need to do to succeed in high school.
- Discuss minimum **and** recommended course requirements to graduate from high school.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- What will I do after high school?
- How can I plan?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- **High School Course Requirements** (*final page of this lesson plan*)

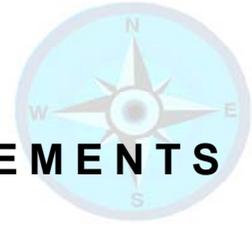
CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

1. **Review high school graduation requirements.** Your students will soon register for high school courses. They will likely not have much flexibility in their freshman year courses, though they should be encouraged to register for advanced courses if possible (for instance, testing out of Algebra I and taking Geometry as a freshman). In any event, though, your students do need to understand two important points:
 - a. First, the State of Washington (through OSPI) sets minimum course requirements – which are listed on the **High School Course Requirements** handout – that students must meet to receive a high school diploma.
 - b. But second, and even more important, to be qualified for nearly any postsecondary option, your students must do MORE than the minimum. (*10-15 minutes*)
2. **Discuss course options.** Spend some time reviewing the **Course Requirements** handout and discussing these differences with your students. Ask them what types of courses they are interesting in taking – and why. (*5-10 minutes*)

STUDENT PRODUCTS:

Nothing to write this lesson. But students should be encouraged to share the **High School Course Requirements** handout with their parents.





HIGH SCHOOL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

WHAT COURSES DO YOU NEED IN HIGH SCHOOL?

What courses will you need to take in high school to succeed in college or in a career? Here's what's required to graduate, as well as what school counselors suggest you take (in addition to the minimum) to prepare yourself for the future. Your local high school may have different requirements.

LANGUAGE ARTS

OSPI requires: 3 credits **Counselors suggest: 4 credits**

Being able to read well, write fluently, and communicate clearly is absolutely essential for college or for any job. Language arts (English) classes will help you do that and develop an appreciation for literature.

MATHEMATICS

OSPI requires: 2 credits **Counselors suggest: 3-4 credits**

A good understanding of math is needed in our high-tech, 21st century world. You should aim to take math every year. Math courses include Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Pre-calculus, and Calculus.

HISTORY and GEOGRAPHY

OSPI requires: 2.5 credits **Counselors suggest: 2-3 credits**

Social studies courses help you learn more about the world around us. These courses include Geography, Government, Civics, World History, World Cultures, US History, and Political Science.

SCIENCE

OSPI requires: 2 credits **Counselors suggest: 3-4 credits**

Science is important for any career path, as the study of science teaches you to observe carefully and use logical reasoning to answer questions. Courses include Chemistry, Geology, Biology, and Physics.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

OSPI requires: 0 credits **Counselors suggest: 2-4 credits**

Most colleges require at least two years of study of a foreign language (such as Japanese, French, Spanish, Chinese, or Latin). Understanding the cultures and language of other countries is essential today.

VISUAL and PERFORMING ARTS

OSPI requires: 1 credit **Counselors suggest: 1-2 credits**

Studying the arts helps you learn to express yourself creatively and find new ways to interpret your surroundings. Arts courses include Art, Music, Photography, Drama, and Dance.

ELECTIVES

OSPI requires:
5.5 credits in general Electives
2 credits in Health & Fitness
1 credit in Occupational Education

The elective courses you take will be determined in part by the career pathway you select when you are in 9th grade. Your high school advisor will help you develop a **Four-year Plan** that tracks the courses you plan to take each year.

In each of these areas, register for the most advanced class level you can manage.

