

WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

2018-2019 School Profile

50 Columbia Street, Watertown, MA 02472

Guidance Telephone (617) 926-7736 / Fax (617) 673-6812

CEEB/ACT Code Number 222 250

Shirley Lundberg, Principal

Community

Watertown, a community of about 32,000 residents living in 4 ½ square miles, is noted for its rich cultural heritage, diversity of language, and strong community spirit. Originally agricultural, then a manufacturing center, Watertown is now a middle class community with diversified services in manufacturing, retail trade, health, education, and other professional areas. The community represents a rich diversity in its ethnic heritage, with approximately 20% of the population born outside of the United States. For 33% of the students, English is not their first language.

School

Comprehensive Four-Year Public High School

Accreditation: NEASC

Faculty to student ratio, including specialists: 1:12

Average class size including ESL & Special Education: 23

Enrollment: 653

2018 Graduating Class: 160

Graduation Requirements

Full year courses grant 6 credits and semester courses grant 3 credits. Credit can be withheld for attendance reasons. Students must earn 134 credits in the following areas:

4 years English (including Sr. Thesis)*

4 years Mathematics

4 semesters of Physical Education (one each year)

3 years Science**

3 years Social Studies (including 2 yrs. U.S. History)

1 semester Health

1 year Fine, Applied and Performing Arts or
Career/Technical Education

Foreign Language is not a requirement but is strongly recommended for 2 years.

36 hours of approved community service.

* L1 senior English courses are split into two semesters. All students take Research & the Real World 1st semester where they complete their Senior Thesis Paper (STP) and a 2nd semester English course (ex: Creative Writing, Film & Media Studies, Comedy in Literature, Sports in Literature).

**All Science courses offered at WHS are lab Sciences with the exception of Summer School, credit recovery, and Virtual High School courses.

Schedule

Watertown High School is on a 7-day rotating schedule with 6 of the 7 periods meeting each day for 57 minutes. Students are required to carry at least 36 credits each year, with no more than one full year study hall each year.

Course Levels and Offerings

Core academic classes are offered in English, Mathematics, History, Science, Foreign Language, Physical Education, and Health. Students also select from a variety of electives in art, family and consumer science, engineering, finance, music, technology, TV production, and woodworking. A variety of Virtual High School (VHS) courses are also available to students. An ESL program is also offered in English, Math, Science, and History.

Core academic courses are offered at four levels of difficulty:

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are designed to be significantly more demanding than honors level courses, with the volume of work, depth of ideas and discussion, and pace of assignments equal to what students will find on the college or university campus.

Honors (H) level courses are designed to provide intensive instruction to students who have demonstrated an outstanding level of achievement and interest in studying a subject in depth and pursuing independent projects.

Level 1 (L1) courses prepare students to continue their education after high school.

Level 2 (L2) courses are designed for students who benefit from more intensive instruction and support in order to be successful. These courses are college preparatory.

Student Activities

A Cappella Chorus, Armenian Club, Athletic Leadership, Badminton Club, Book Club, Checkers & Chess Club, Class Officers, Class Executive Committees, Comic/Graphic Novel/Animation Club, Dance Club, Drama Club, Environmental Club, Fab Lab Club, Feminist Coalition, Film Club, Gender Sexuality Alliance, Girls Who Code, HOPE Squad, Interdepartmental Studies (IDS), Interact Club, International Club, Jazz Band, Model UN, National Honor Society, No Place for Hate, Pep Band, Photo Club, Powerlifting Club, Pride Committee, Raider Study Club, Raider Times (school newspaper), Robotics Team, Saheli Club, Service Club, Social Network, Social Butterflies, Student Council, Women of Science, Word Painter, Writers Ink, Yearbook, and Youth Wellness Champions.

The Athletic Department offers 26 teams that have consistently reached league and state championship levels.

Grading System

A: Superior	P: Passing
B: Above average	Inc.: Incomplete
C: Average	S: Satisfactory
D: Unsatisfactory	U: Unsatisfactory
F: Failure, No Credit	W: Withdrawn

GPA/Decile Reporting

As of the fall of 2012, all graded classes are included in a student's GPA. Class rank is reported in deciles.

GPA at Watertown High School is a weighted ranking which includes all graded courses. Pass/Fail courses, Credit Recovery courses, and Summer School courses are not included in the GPA. In order to be eligible for inclusion in the decile ranking, students must have attended Watertown High School for a minimum of five quarters and have accumulated a minimum of twenty term grades.

Weighted Rank

	AP	Honors	Level 1 & Level 2
A+	5.3	4.8	4.3
A	5.0	4.5	4.0
A-	4.7	4.2	3.7
B+	4.3	3.8	3.3
B	4.0	3.5	3.0
B-	3.7	3.2	2.7
C+	3.3	2.8	2.3
C, S	3.0	2.5	2.0
C-	2.7	2.2	1.7
D+	2.3	1.8	1.3
D	2.0	1.5	1.0
D-, U	1.7	1.2	0.7
F, INC	0	0	0

Post High School Plans of our Graduates

	4 Yr. College	2 Yr. College/ Vocational Training	Other Post- Secondary
2018	81%	12%	7%
2017	72%	15%	13%
2016	71%	20%	9%
2015	72%	19%	9%
2014	65%	20%	15%
2013	72%	18%	5%
2012	60%	20%	3%

Other post-secondary options common at Watertown High School include employment, PG year, military service, and gap year programs.

Testing Statistics (SAT)

Cohort Year	% taking SAT	Mean Math	Mean EBRW
2018	85%	563	551
2017	73%	560	548

Testing Statistics (ACT)

Cohort Year	% taking ACT	Mean Composite
2018	30%	24.0
2017	28%	23.5

Testing Statistics (SAT Subject Tests)

Test	# of students (cohort year 2018)	Mean
US History	13	655
Math, Level 2	11	655

*Ten or fewer students took the Biology (E), Chemistry, Italian, Japanese, Literature, Math Level 1, Physics, and Spanish tests, so mean scores are not available.

Testing Statistics (Advanced Placement Tests)

AP courses are currently offered in the areas of English Literature, English Composition, U.S. History, European History, Psychology, Computer Science A, Calculus AB, Statistics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics 1, Physics C (Mechanics, E&M), Environmental Science, Italian, Spanish, and Studio Art. Students are also able to enroll in a variety of Virtual High School AP courses. In May 2018, 111 students (grades 10-12) took a total of 187 exams. 74% scored 3 or better, with 44% receiving scores of 4 or 5.

Guidance Staff

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