

WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Columbia Street, Watertown, MA 02472 • Telephone (617) 926-7736 / Fax (617) 673-6812 CEEB/ACT Code Number 222 250

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Headmaster

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2011 – 2012 PROFILE

Community

Watertown, a community of about 34,000 residents living in 4 1/2 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, educational and other professional and related areas. It is located just six miles northwest of Boston. The community represents a rich diversity in its ethnic heritage with approximately 20% of the population born outside of the United States. For 29% of the students, English is not their first language.

School

Comprehensive four year public high school

Accreditation: New England Association of Schools & Colleges

Faculty to student ratio, including specialists: about 1:12

Typical class size including ESL and Special Education: 23

Enrollment: 750

2010 Graduating Class: 164 students

Graduation Requirements

Students need 134 credits to graduate, with full year courses granting six credits. Semester courses earn three credits.

Students need to complete 4 years of English, 3 years of mathematics and science, and 3 years of social studies (including 2 U.S. History). A health course must be completed if the student was in attendance at WHS during freshman or sophomore year. The physical education requirement is successful completion of 3 semester courses. One year of courses in Fine, Applied and Performing Arts or Occupational Education is required, as well as at least 36 hours of approved community service. Students must also complete a Senior Thesis through their English class.

Student Activities

Watertown High School offers a wide variety of clubs, sports and other extracurricular activities. These include: A Capella Chorus, Armenian Club, Science Club, Cheerleading, Class Officers /Class Activities, Cum Laude, Drama Club, Gay/Straight Alliance, Interdepartmental Studies (IDS), International Club, National Honor Society, Raider Times (school newspaper), Peers Leaders, Sports Management Club, Student Advisory to the Watertown School Committee, Student Council, Community Service Club, Word Painter and Yearbook.

Grading System

A:	Superior	P:	Passing
B:	Above average	Inc.:	Incomplete
C:	Average	S:	Satisfactory
D:	Unsatisfactory	U:	Unsatisfactory/Passing
F:	Failure, No Credit	W:	Withdrawn
N:	Excessive Absences, No Credit	X:	Medical Excuse

Rank In Class

Rank in Class at Watertown High School is a weighted ranking which includes Advanced Placement, Honors, Level 1 and Level 2 courses in the areas of English, Math, Social Studies, Science, Foreign Language, Art and Computer Science. Pass/Fail courses, Summer School courses, unlevleed courses and Independent Study courses are not included in the rank. In order to be eligible for Rank in Class inclusion, students must have attended Watertown High School 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

	4 Year College	2 Year College	Other Post Secondary
2011	65%	15%	3%
2010	73%	15%	3%
2009	60%	20%	2%
2008	74%	14%	2%
2007	75%	13%	3%
2006	72%	17%	1%
2005	73%	17%	0%

Testing Statistics

	% taking the SAT	Mean Reading	Mean Math	Mean Writing
2011	79%	504	542	502
2010	73%	514	547	506
2009	68%	480	504	469
2008	80%	500	525	504
2007	86%	479	518	----
2006	87%	492	521	----
2005	82%	494	513	----

Advanced Placement Tests in May 2011, 91 students took a total of 189 AP exams. 95% scored 3 or better, with 51% receiving grades of 4 or 5.

Course Levels

Core academic courses are offered at four levels of difficulty. 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 are college preparatory. Level 2 (L2) courses are designed for students who benefit from more intensive instruction and support and work at an average or below average level. Twelve Advanced Placement (AP) courses are currently offered in the areas of English Literature, English Composition, U.S. History, European History, Psychology, Calculus AB, Statistics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Spanish Language and Studio Art. 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. Some Watertown High School courses are "not weighted", that is, do not have a designated level of difficulty and are not included in class rank.

In compliance with the suggested Massachusetts State College weighting system, the only courses included in the class rank are 1000s (English), 2000s (Foreign Language (except ESL), 3000s (Mathematics), 4000s (Science), 5000s (Social Studies), 7000s (Fine, Applied and Performing Arts) and 6460 & 6470 (Computer Repair and Upgrade) and AP Virtual High School Courses.

Course Numbers

<u>Series</u>	<u>Department</u>
0000	Transfer courses from previous school
1000	English
2000	Foreign Language
3000	Math
4000	Science
5000	Social Studies
6000	Occupational Education
7000	Fine, Applied and Performing Arts
8500 - 8990	Physical Education/Health
9000	Support Classes
HZ999	Summer School
HVxxxx.....	Virtual High School
HXxxxx.....	Independent Study
HYxxxx.....	Teacher's Aide Courses
HZxxxx	Non WHS courses taken during the school year
..... 3P	denotes class meets three time per cycle
..... 6P	denotes class meets six times per cycle
..... 1S	denotes semester course
..... # Ending in 0	denotes full year course
..... # Ending in 3	denotes semester course

Guidance Staff

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