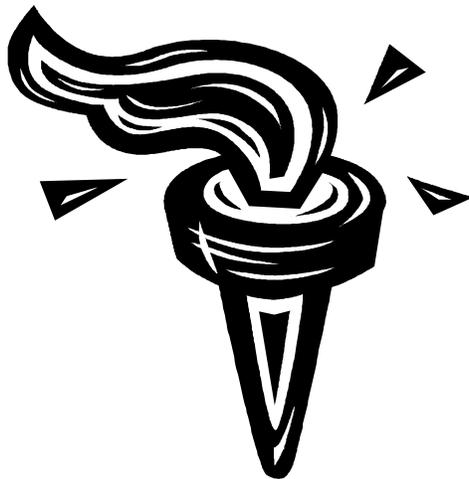


**NORTHGATE
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL**

**9TH GRADE
COURSE DESCRIPTION
BOOK**



2017 – 2018

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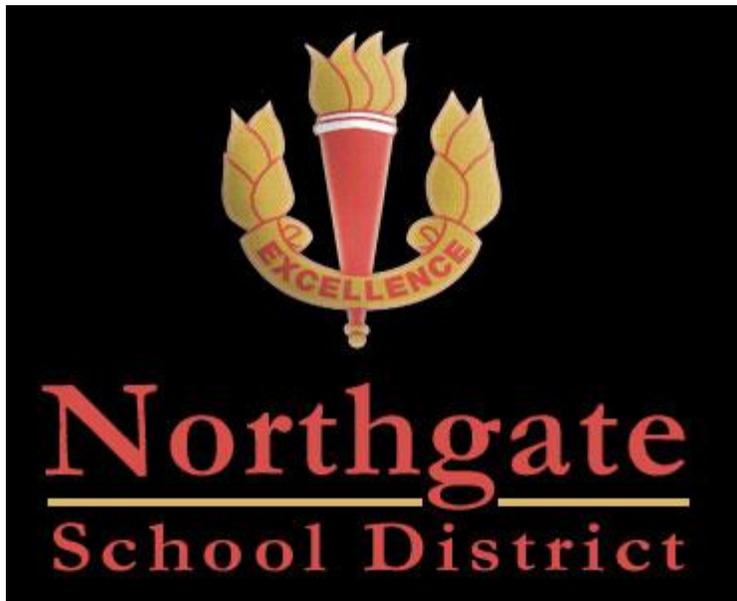
STUDENT RIGHTS

The Northgate School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, handicap or limited English proficiency in its educational programs, services, facilities, activities or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Section 504 Regulations of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 204 Regulations of the 1984 Carl D. Perkins Act or any applicable federal statute.

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Northgate School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, handicap or limited English proficiency in its education programs, services, facilities, activities or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments, Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 Regulations of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 204 Regulations of the 1984 Carl D. Perkins Act or any applicable Federal statute.

For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, or information regarding services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by disabled persons, contact Mrs. Caroline Johns, 589 Union Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202.



NORTHGATE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PERSONNEL
412-732-3300

Principal Mr. Bryan J. Kyle
X1001

Dean of Students Mr. Jon Nikolajski
X1000

Guidance Counselor-grades 7, 8 & 9 Mrs. Stacy Gallagher
X1014

Guidance Counselor-grades 10, 11 & 12 Mr. Brian Talbert
X1013

Nurse Mrs. Cyndie Kuhlber
X1020

Principal's Secretary/Attendance Mrs. Dana Bloom
X1001

Dean of Students/Athletic Secretary Mrs. Judy Collins
X1000

Guidance Secretary Mrs. Diane Burns
X1012

NORTHGATE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS CLASS OF 2018 TO 2021

Current Grade Level	9th	10th	11th	12th
Class	2021	2020	2019	2018
English	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Social Studies	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Mathematics	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Science	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Computer Applications II	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Personal Finance	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Physical Education	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Health	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5
*Electives	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
TOTAL	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5

**Subject to change upon School Board approval*

GRADUATION PROJECT

In accordance with Chapter 4 Curriculum Regulations of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Northgate School District graduation requirements, a student must complete a Graduation Project under the guidance and direction of the high school faculty.

The Northgate School District Graduation Project will require students to demonstrate the ability to apply, organize, analyze, synthesize and evaluate information. The student will be able to communicate significant knowledge and understanding after investigating a personal, specialized area of interest.

The Graduation Project will:

- Reflect multiple intelligent behaviors
- Provide the opportunity to exhibit problem solving, self-directed learning, decision making, independent research and cooperation with others
- Encourage enterprise and personal ownership of a task
- Promote time management, accountability and responsibility
- Support diversity and various learning styles
- Challenge students to produce a quality product

This comprehensive learning activity will allow students to showcase creativity, abilities and talents from their educational experience.

ENGLISH

191 ENGLISH 9 ACADEMIC

Academic English 9 will provide a foundation for skills that will be built upon in the 10th grade, 11th grade and 12th grade English courses. The students will experience and work with various genres of literature (fiction, non-fiction, and poetry), literary elements, and media related to the literature. The students will also be responsible for reading at least nine novels through the Accelerated Reader Program during the school year, which will count as part of the students' class grades. Approximately three to four research-based projects and presentations, including a formal research paper, are required. These projects are done in coordination with the American Studies 9 class. Students will be assessed through quizzes/tests, assignments, projects, writings, class participation, and final exam.

192 ENGLISH 9 HONORS

A minimum NGA based on the student's performance in the preceding year's English course may be required to schedule Honors English 9. Teacher approval is required. Students in Honors English 9 will take a more in-depth approach to studying, writing about and discussing literature in addition to the Academic English 9 requirements. Student assessment will be more rigorous.

SOCIAL STUDIES

691 AMERICAN STUDIES I 9 ACADEMIC

American Studies I is a required course offered to ninth graders. This course serves as a foundation to the entire Social Studies program. Beginning with the age of exploration, the student will be expected to reflect a suitable degree of understanding of the early settlement of North America by Europeans; the development of the thirteen colonies; the era of the American Revolution; the political, social and cultural development in early 19th century America and the Civil War. A variety of media will be used and the development of reading, writing and interpretive skills will be emphasized. Special attention will be given to the study of the Constitution of the United States. A final examination will be administered and weighted twelve (12) percent of the final grade for the course.

Students enrolled in honor classes will be required to be more directly involved in presenting information to the class. This would take the form of projects and reports in most instances.

692 AMERICAN STUDIES I 9 HONORS

Prerequisite: Students enrolled in this course must have an 85% or above in their 8th grade Social Studies course and teacher's recommendation.

In addition to the basic American Studies course, students will do frequent research papers, oral presentations and in-depth reading at an accelerated pace.

MATH

207 ALGEBRA I

Prerequisite: Passing grade in pre-Algebra

Algebra I is a standards-based algebra course including the following topics: Operations with Real Numbers and Expressions, Linear Equations, Linear Inequalities, Functions, Factoring Algebraic Expressions, Coordinate Geometry, and Data Analysis. Students will also learn to model real-world situations using functions in order to solve problems arising from those situations. Students will begin to become proficient with a graphing calculator and its use throughout this course. The course is structured to prepare students for the Keystone Algebra I Exam.

212 GEOMETRY

Prerequisite: Algebra I with a passing grade

In geometry, students will develop reasoning and problem solving skills as they study topics such as congruence and similarity, and apply properties of lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles. You will also develop problem solving skills by using length, perimeter, area, circumference, surface area, and volume to solve real-world problems. Technology support for both learning geometry and preparing for standardized tests will be available in the form of online and multimedia content.

224 HONORS GEOMETRY

Perquisite: Teacher recommendation

In Geometry, students will begin by exploring fundamental aspects such as points, lines and planes. Properties of logical reasoning will be used to extend into deductive reasoning and proof-writing. As new geometric theorems and postulates are presented, the class will formally prove them and then apply them in real-world situations. These geometric application problems will often be interwoven with concepts of algebra.

231 ACCELERATED ALGEBRA II

9th Grade Only

The main focus in this course is on mathematical functions. Linear functions, linear systems, and matrices will be covered in the first quarter. Quadratic, polynomial, exponential, and radical functions are covered in the second quarter. Conic sections, probability, and statistics are the topics covered in the third quarter. Sequences, series, and trigonometric functions are covered in the fourth quarter.

SCIENCE

781 BIOLOGY 9

Prerequisites: 70% or lower in Science 8 and teacher recommendation.

Biology 9 is similar to Academic Biology 9. Using teaching methods of labs, presentations and class discussions the students will learn the life around them. Practical applications of biology to daily living are stressed. Subject matter will include Cell Biology, Genetics, Evolution and the Kingdoms of Life. Final examination is required.

783 ACADEMIC BIOLOGY 9

Prerequisites: 70% or higher in Science 8 and teacher recommendation.

Academic Biology 9 is a course that will introduce the basic biological concepts essential for students planning to attend college. The students will find the course challenging in the class and lab. Subject matter will include Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Genetics, Evolution and the Diversity of Life Among Kingdoms. Class periods will be set aside for labs and activities related to the subject area being taught. Final examination is required.

782 HONORS BIOLOGY 9

Prerequisites: 90% or above in Science 8 and teacher recommendation.

Honors Biology 9 is designed for students who plan to accelerate their science skills and are interested in college in some field of biological sciences. Areas of study will include Cell Biology, Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Evolution, Genetics and the Diversity of Life Among Kingdoms. Lab investigations will be used to reinforce key topics. Group and individual projects that stress critical thinking will be required. Every quarter a project will be assigned. Scientific writings and readings are required. Class periods are devoted to labs, inquiry observations and scientific methodology. Final examination is required.

BUSINESS/TECHNOLOGY

885 COMPUTER APPLICATIONS II

This course will continue to strengthen the student's computer skills and knowledge. Students will create newsletters, flyers, brochures, business cards and advertisements using MS Publisher. Students will create their own web pages using MS FrontPage and create databases using MS Access.

HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

504 HEALTH

9th Grade Required Course

Health is the state of total physical, mental and social well-being, not just freedom from sickness of ailments. Health education provides health information in such a way that it influences people to take positive action about their health.

Health education is a high school graduation requirement. The content is covered by lectures, in-class worksheets, Current Health magazines, movies, homework, group projects and library research.

542 PHYSICAL EDUCATION 9

9th Grade Required Course

Physical Education classes are designed to develop sound conditioning and fitness and to enhance skills in a plethora of activities ranging from individual athletic pursuits to team sports. Students are expected to dress and participate actively. Failure to meet this requirement will result in removal from class without credit. Mandatory dress guidelines are as follows: white or gray T-shirt, red shorts or sweat pants, appropriate athletics shoes and socks.

Successful completion in grades 9-12 is a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Northgate School Board requirement for graduation. After warm-up drills, students participate in a variety of individual or team activities, which include flag football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, hockey, badminton, racquet ball, speed ball, swimming, aerobics, weight training, physical fitness testing, softball, high organization games, lifetime sports and other endeavors.

9th GRADE ELECTIVES:

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

401 WOOD I

This course is designed to introduce students to the design process through the experience and working knowledge of different materials processing applications. Students will be introduced to various types of wood, how timber is processed and the purposes of wood in the manufacturing and construction fields. This course is designed to show students how to properly select and use hand tools, power tools and machinery. The students will be made aware of various assembly processes through the use of various adhesives and mechanical fasteners. The students will be taught how to make project sketches, develop a set of working plans, create a bill of materials and actively use measurement throughout the course. Safety will be heavily emphasized. There is a nominal fee for lumber associated with this course.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

432 FOOD SCIENCE I

Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Semester Course

This course promotes healthful eating and physical activity plans by using the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, My Plate, food labels and wise consumer decisions. Students will learn how to choose, purchase, prepare and eat healthful foods. They will be introduced to various ways of combining fresh foods, convenience foods, prepared foods and eating out into a healthful eating plan. This course will combine technology and theory with hands-on practical experiences.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

301 FRENCH I

The purpose of the beginning course in French is to learn the language as a means of communication. The students will be introduced to all five language learning skills: reading, writing, listening, speaking and culture. The emphasis will be on how to use these skills in everyday communication. To achieve this, the main language of instruction will be French and the students will be evaluated through both written and oral exams. A minimum of thirty (30) minutes of homework is expected each night.

302 FRENCH II

Prerequisite: 70% grade or better in French I.

To bridge the gap between the elementary and intermediate levels, the introductory lessons are devoted to a review of structures previously studied. The procedures used in the elementary courses have been continued with additional techniques suitable to the more advanced stage. Attention is given to the development of grammar for acquiring greater facility in reading, writing and speaking. There will be both oral and written grades throughout the year and the course will be taught primarily in French. A minimum of thirty minutes of homework is expected each night.

311 SPANISH I

Initial contact with the language and the acquisition of basic language skills is provided. These courses consist of an introduction to the basics of the foreign language, vocabulary study and present and preterit verb conjugations. There is an emphasis on oral practice and language usage, complemented by grammatical explanation. In general, the basic concepts of listening, speaking, reading and writing are developed. Students are expected to memorize vocabulary, poems and songs. A minimum of thirty (30) minutes of homework is expected each night.

312 SPANISH II

Prerequisite: 70% grade or better in Spanish I.

Course Requirement: Students must purchase a University of Chicago Dictionary in paperback form.

This course builds upon the learning and techniques of introductory Spanish and encompasses the preterit, imperfect, progressive and present subjunctive tenses. Emphasis is placed on building a useful vocabulary, learning more difficult grammatical constructions and increasing facility in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each year students read a Spanish novel in a simplified version. Students are expected to memorize vocabulary and verb endings. A minimum of thirty minutes each night of homework is expected.

ART

457 ART FOUNDATION

Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Semester Course

This course provides a strong foundation in both two and three-dimensions of art making. Students will focus on skill-building through the exploration of various art media. There will be strong focus on drawing, as this is the foundation for all art making. Other two-dimensional art media will include: painting and color theory, print making, collage and a variety of drawing media such as pastel, charcoal and pen and ink. Three-dimensional art media will include: a variety of hand-building techniques using clay, paper maché and found objects such as wood. This class will provide students with a thorough understanding of the principles and elements of design.

MUSIC

466 CONCERT CHOIR

Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

The Northgate Concert Choir is a group of mixed voices singing a wide variety of musical styles. Most rehearsals are held during the school day. The choir presents evening concerts in December and May, participates in Music In Our Schools Night in March and sings for Baccalaureate in June. Additional performances will be added. Attendance is mandatory for all concerts.

467 MARCHING BAND Q1

Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Any students in grades 8-12 may participate in Marching Band I at the discretion of the band director. Attendance at summer band rehearsals and band camp are primary prerequisites unless prior administrative excusal is granted. This course will focus mainly on marching band during the usual marching season, which coincides with the varsity football schedule as well as other scheduled or announced non-football events, such as parades. All students in Marching Band must be cognizant of the fact that participation at all band and band-related events is mandatory excepting prior administrative exoneration. These will include all varsity football games,

festivals, parades and/or concerts scheduled during the first semester. Eighth grade students may be permitted to participate at the discretion of the band director. Marching Band meets once per day, five days per week and one evening per week during football season. Progress is monitored through playing and written tests.

Related activities: Members of the band are eligible to audition for smaller instrumental ensembles. These groups rehearse after school. Additionally, students are chosen by audition to represent Northgate at district and regional band festivals held at various high schools throughout Western Pennsylvania.

470 CONCERT BAND Q2

Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Concert Band Q2 will focus mainly on concert band repertoire and performances; however, some outdoor performances may be scheduled including parades and ceremonies. All students must understand that participation at all band and band-related events is mandatory except when prior administrative approval is granted for extenuating circumstances. Concert Band Q2 is a second quarter, first semester course and meets once a day, five days a week; however, additional rehearsals may periodically be required as needed. Progress is monitored through playing and performances.

Related activities: Members of the band are eligible to audition for smaller ensembles. These groups rehearse after school. Additionally, students may be chosen by audition to represent Northgate at various district and regional band events and festivals held in the area.

468 CONCERT BAND Q3 & Q4

Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Concert Band Q3 & Q4 will focus mainly on concert band repertoire and performances; however, some outdoor and marching events may be scheduled including parades and ceremonies. All students must understand that participation at all band and band-related events is mandatory except when prior administrative approval is granted for extenuating circumstances. Concert Band Q3 & Q4 is a second semester course and meets once a day, five days a week. Additional rehearsals may periodically be required as needed. Progress is monitored through playing, tests and performances.

Related activities: members of the band are eligible to audition for smaller ensembles. These groups rehearse after school. Additionally, students may be chosen by audition to represent Northgate at various district and regional band events and festivals held in the area.

484 ORCHESTRA

Grades 7 to 12th

All Year (M-F)

This course is designed to continue the strings education from the elementary program to the middle school. This course gives the strings layers the opportunity to enhance and build upon the fundamentals by providing a daily ensemble rehearsal. This course also provides the younger players with the chance to play and perform with older and more experienced students. Since this class meets on a daily basis, the students will not be pulled out of other classes for their lessons. This class is not encouraged for students who have not already played a string instrument. Any student wishing to enroll without previous playing experience must get permission from the director.

GENERAL ELECTIVE

113 YEARBOOK

Prerequisite: C or better in Academic English

Primarily, students will explore many facets of journalism in the class including writing, photography, layout and design, desktop publishing, business and advertising. Producing the *Torch*, Northgate Middle/High School's yearbook, is a tremendous project in which students will be required to make a commitment to working on the yearbook. As the yearbook is a student run production, these students will have the opportunity to design their yearbook. Students of yearbook learn valuable, real world experiences such as meeting deadlines, working as members of a team, and dealing with the public.

The journalism aspect is designed for any student looking to improve his or her writing skills, and for any student interested in the media. The class will evaluate the local and national media (including yearbooks) and discuss the role of the media in society today. Students will learn journalism basics such as interviewing and news writing before working on pieces for the *Torch*. Students will learn to write various types of articles and captions, both of which are crucial to a successful yearbook. The students will also learn layout principles in designing the printed page.

*After school and outside of school work will be required in order to complete the *Torch*. Missing a deadline will result in removal from the class. The student will receive a "W" for the class.