West Anchorage High School
Sven Gustafson, Principal

About

Established in 1953, West Anchorage High School is proud to be the first of eight four-year comprehensive secondary schools in the Anchorage School District. West serves an ethnically and economically diverse population of students hailing from Anchorage’s Downtown, Midtown, Westside, and Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson.

West High Demographics

- 1,851 Students
- 382 Students in Class of 2020
- 13 National Merit Scholar Semifinalists in 2019-2020
- 39 Different Home Languages Spoken by West Students

Outstanding Programs

- IB Diploma Program
- Russian & Spanish Immersion
- Highly Gifted Program
- Medical Academy
- Project Lead the Way Engineering
- Anchor Media Productions
75
GRADUATES EARNED A SEAL OF BILITERACY ON THEIR 2018 DIPLOMA

6
COUNSELORS:
JOHANNA UTTERBACK, CHAIR
CHRIS BREHMER
CINDY CHAPUT
APRIL CHRISTIANSON
TROY HODGE
MICHELLE YOON

*EACH ACADEMIC COUNSELOR SERVICES APPROXIMATELY 275 STUDENTS

1
MIGRANT EDUCATION COUNSELOR
ELIZABETH HOWELL

1
INDIAN EDUCATION COMMUNITY COUNSELOR: BRIAN WALKER

IMMERSION LANGUAGES

West houses the high school portion of the Anchorage School District’s language immersion programs for Spanish and Russian. Students in these programs are selected by lottery, and have been learning for a portion of their school day in the immersion language since kindergarten.

HIGHLY GIFTED PROGRAM

The HG program was designed for students in the top 2% of nationally normed ability and achievement tests. Students take three HG courses in 9th grade (English, Social Studies, Science) and one in 10th grade (English), which are made up exclusively of these advanced students.

GIFTED MENTORSHIP

The Gifted Mentorship Program is for exceptional high school juniors and seniors to pursue an independent study under the direction of a professional/expert in a field of great interest to the student. High-ability, high-achieving students spend 45-60 hours with their mentor and earn half an elective credit for the mentorship. This is transcripted at “Advanced Mentorship” with an unweighted grade.

https://www.asdk12.org/giftedmentorships

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

These engineering courses allow students to learn about a broad cross-section of engineering disciplines and practices. Engineering Design introduces students to various kinds of engineering and focuses on design and a unifying theme. Digital electronics explores simple DC circuits to transistors to microprocessors while Computer Science Principles lets students explore programming as well as topics like cyber security and ethical implications of technological advancement.

MEDICAL ACADEMY

The Medical Academy at West Anchorage High School prepares students to enter healthcare professions or college through preparation in science classes: Anatomy & Physiology, Biology, and Chemistry as well as medical classes: Biomedical Science, Health Occupation Essentials, Medical Terminology, First Aid, Emergency Trauma Technician, and Essentials of Athletic Injury Management. Students successfully completing their coursework can apply to graduate with the West Anchorage High School, Medical Cord.

ANCHOR MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

Anchor Media Productions (AMP): The Broadcast Journalism Pathway focuses on multimedia storytelling for a variety of platforms. Students learn essential broadcast journalism skills, such as: photography, videography, interviewing, news writing, video production and filmmaking. Students publish their work for the school newspaper, the Eagle’s Cry, and the West YouTube Channel, “Orange Juice.”
HIGHLY GIFTED (HG) & HONORS CLASSES

- English I & II, Honors, Gifted
- English I & II, Honors
- Biology I, Honors, Gifted
- Ancient Civilizations/Alaska Studies, Honors Gifted
- Ancient Civilizations/Alaska Studies, Honors
- World History, Honors

IB COURSES (46) & AP COURSES (12)

- IB Literature HL, I & II
- IB Physics HL, I & II
- IB Biology HL, I & II
- IB Chemistry HL, I & II
- IB Environmental Syst. & Soc.
- IB History of the Americas HL, I & II
- IB Mathematics HL, I, & II
- IB Mathematics Studies I & II
- IB Spanish: SL I, SL II, & HL
- IB German: SL I, SL II, & HL
- IB French: SL I, SL II, & HL
- IB Russian: SL I, SL II, & HL
- IB Music
- IB Visual Arts I & II
- IB Theory of Knowledge I & II
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Statistics
- AP Russian
- AP Spanish
- AP German
- AP World History
- AP US History
- AP US Government
- AP Economics
- AP Computer Science
- AP Psychology (ASD iSchool)

ASD iSchool

ASD iSchool is the district’s online distance education program. Students may take up to two courses per semester via iSchool. All iSchool classes are NCAA approved, and students may take any corresponding AP exams at their home school.

https://www.asdk12.org/asdischool
4.388-4.054
GPA RANGE OF TOP 10% OF STUDENTS IN THE 2020 GRADUATING CLASS

GPA RANGE

4.0+ = 52
3.5 - 3.99 = 55
3.0 - 3.49 = 75
2.5 - 2.99 = 95
2.0 - 2.49 = 68
BELOW 2.0 = 37

GRADING SCALE

A  AP Courses  5.0
A  IB Higher Level Course  5.0
A  Superior  4.0
B  Above Average  3.0
C  Average  2.0
D  Below Average  1.0
F  Failing  0.0
K  Waiver of PE Credit

Class rank and grade point average (GPA) are computed each semester. All courses on a transcript are used to determine rank and GPA. AP and IB Higher Level Courses are assigned an additional mark point with the exception of F.

4A DIVISION ATHLETICS

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Cheerleading
- Cross Country Running
- Cross Country Skiing
- Flag Football
- Football
- Gymnastics
- Ice Hockey
- Riflery
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming/Diving
- Tennis
- Track and Field
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS

West Anchorage High School has approximately 30 student clubs that vary from academic to cultural. They include:

- Amnesty International
- Battle of the Books
- Chess Club
- Drama, Debate & Forensics
- Environmental Club
- Gender & Sexuality Alliance
- Interact Club
- Key Club
- Model United Nations
- Mock Trial
- National Honor Society
- Native Youth Olympics
- Partner's Club
- Robotics
- Thespian Society
- Women of West
- You Are Not Alone (YANA)