



What's up Wildcats?

News about the Bethel/Royalton school merger



High School Program Update

The first course selection for the White River Valley High School took place the morning of March 30th, when students began to build their schedules for the upcoming school year. More than one hundred courses were offered, with each department presenting class overviews to all students and also providing advice about the best course options for different career paths that students may be considering.

In order to increase student choice, teachers developed more courses than can actually be fit into the school schedule. Classes that garnered sufficient student interest (based on the choices made on course selection day) will be offered next year, while classes with lower enrollment may be offered at a later date. Students will take a maximum of eight courses in the 2018-19 academic year and a parent signature will be required before students' schedules are finalized. More information will be sent home to high school families in the coming weeks.

The new course of studies, developed this winter by WRV high school faculty, was met with enthusiasm by students from both communities. Popular new classes, which are not currently offered at Whitcomb or South Royalton, include Child Development, Comedy Writing, Engineering & Robotics, and Jazz Band. According to the Program of Academic Studies distributed on course selection day, students taking Child Development, "will be introduced to the study of child development and analyze its relevance to their lives and families." Comedy writing will allow students to "analyze humorous content and write their own jokes, sketches, and screenplays." Engineering & Robotics will give students the opportunity to "apply the engineering design process and scientific concepts to create authentic solutions to engineering and robotics problems." And the Jazz Band will be an ensemble that "studies and performs the music of the foremost big band composers, past and present."

When designing the new curriculum, special emphasis was placed on supporting ninth graders as they transition from middle school. Research shows that positive experiences in ninth grade can predict graduation rates and even later success during college. A designated team of ninth grade teachers at WRVHS will work together to coordinate projects and assessments for freshman, offering support when students struggle as well as helping them reach new levels of learning when they are ready. There will be a focus on teaching high school work habits to all students and extra math and literacy blocks will be available to strengthen students' core academic skills. This proactive approach, which is also being utilized at other schools around Vermont, will meet students where they are at and prepare them for success throughout their high school career.

For More Information

To view the Program of Academic Studies, which includes course objectives and descriptions, use the link below. Please note that this document is still in draft form and we anticipate that changes will be made to course descriptions and offerings.

<https://tinyurl.com/WRVHS>