HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND PLAN

LESSON 7-8 ▲ HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

**LEARNING GOALS/OUTCOMES**

* Sort the courses available at a high school into logical educational fields.
* Identify ten different high school courses that relate to personal interests and/or skills.

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

* **Student Handouts:**
* Washington High School Graduation Credit Requirements
* **A class set of course guides from your local high school(s)**
* **Access to OSPI website for graduation requirements:** [www.k12.wa.us/graduationrequirements/](http://www.k12.wa.us/graduationrequirements/)

**CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

1. **Students discuss what they know about high school courses.** Use a show of hands to determine how many students have a brother or sister who is in high school. Ask those students to each provide a ‘fact’ about high school courses that they believe to be true, based on what their older siblings say. Write these perspectives on the board. Ask students if there are any of the ‘facts’ on the board that they believe to be untrue. Tell students that, after today’s lesson, they’ll all know a lot more of the facts about high school courses.
2. **Students sort courses from local high schools into logical educational groups.** Provide each student with a copy of the local high school course guide. Quickly review the courses at the high school. Point out that there is more selection at high school than there is in middle school. Tell students that some courses are ‘required courses’ and others are ‘electives’ (meaning a student has some choice).

Ask each student to select one high school course from the guide and write the course name on an 8 x 11 piece of paper. Ask students to stand up. Ask them to look at the courses available in the room and move themselves, so that their course is part of a logical group. Once all students/courses are clustered, have them announce their groups. Grouping might be ‘science’, ‘trades’, ‘electives’, etc.

1. **Students discover courses associated with various graduation requirement groups.** Ask students to return to their desks. Provide each student with a copy of the *Washington High School Graduation Requirements* handout, listing the graduation requirements of different fields of education. Review the graduation requirements for high schools in your state. Read out the names of the grad requirement groups and ask students to stand up with their course name, if they belong to that group. For example, students with math-related course titles will stand up when the ‘math’ grad requirement is read.

Pair students and have them use their course guides to identify the names of local high school courses in each grad requirement area. Each student writes the course names in the appropriate area on their handout.

1. **Students relate what they do in 7th grade to readiness for high school.** Ask students to look back at the board and check their assumptions about high school courses. Ask them to identify which ones were correct, which were wrong, and which ones remain unclear.

Lead a general class discussion on how 7th grade can influence course selection and achievement. Encourage students to see that graduation requires a lot of academics, making it important that they develop their basics in those areas. Also help them to see that there is increasing amount of choice in high school, enabling students to align their course selection with personal interests and skills. It is wise to get involved in lots of school and community activities, helping them to clarify what type of activities, and what type of future, they would prefer.

**STUDENT PRODUCTS**

* **Completed list of *Washington High School Graduation Requirements***
  + **Courses**
  + **State Assessments and End of Course Exams (if required) or Alternatives**
  + **High School & Beyond Plan with Personalized Pathway Requirement (PPR)**

HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND PLAN

LESSON 7-8 STUDENT HANDOUT

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Number of Credits** | **Grad Requirements** | **Sample Courses** | **Rank** |
|  | English |  |  |
|  | Math |  |  |
|  | Science (2 lab) |  |  |
|  | Social Studies |  |  |
|  | Health / Fitness |  |  |
|  | Occupational Ed (CTE) |  |  |
|  | Arts |  |  |
|  | World Language or PPR |  |  |
|  | Electives |  |  |
|  | **TOTAL MINIMUM** |  |  |

**Your Local School District** may have additional academic requirements. In addition to course requirements state assessments and a High School & Beyond Plan with a Personalize Pathway is required to graduate.

Use this site to enter up-to-date requirements

**OSPI**

[www.k12.wa.us/graduationrequirements/](http://www.k12.wa.us/graduationrequirements/)



