

## Tips for Selecting Courses

1. Foreign Language options include repeating Spanish 1 or French 1 if passed in the eighth grade or continuing with the second unit of the foreign language. Many students will wait until the tenth grade to start foreign language for the first time.
2. The Essentials (elective) courses are designed for students who enter high school significantly below grade level and who have poor skills in reading, writing, or mathematics.
3. Students who take Global Studies 1 must enroll in English 1 at the same level (Honors or College Prep).
4. Physical Science Honors has a prerequisite of Algebra 1.
5. Physical Education **OR** JROTC 1 is required for graduation. However, students may opt to take the course later than ninth grade if schedule needs require that adjustment.
6. Mastering Algebra 1 content is critical for future success in upper level mathematics and science courses. Wando has restructured its mathematics offerings based on research and successful programs in other high performing high schools. Options include:
  - **Mastery Algebra 1** (one semester in length): In order to receive Algebra 1 credit, a student must master all units. Students must master each unit with a minimum grade of "C". If not mastered, students are offered tutoring and test corrections of non-mastered skills until mastery is achieved. Parental support is integral. Students who successfully complete Math 8/Pre-Algebra should select this course.
  - **Algebra I** (fall term only): This option is designed for students who passed Algebra 1 in eighth grade but wish to retake the course to improve understanding.
  - **Essentials of Math** (elective) **and Algebra 1, Part 1**: Students who have very weak math skills are advised to take these courses which are intended to help build basic math proficiency and begin Algebra 1 content.
  - **Geometry Honors or CP**: Course follows Algebra 1
7. All ninth graders take Freshman Focus and Personal Health and Wellness as quarter courses. The only exceptions are students who are enrolled in yearlong performing arts classes and students who are taking JROTC. Those students have a quarter Health course during the spring term and cannot schedule Freshman Focus.
8. Freshman Focus is tied to the level of English 1 (Honors or College Prep).
9. Admission to South Carolina four year public colleges now requires a unit of visual or performing arts while in high school.
10. The computer science requirement for graduation can be met by taking one of more than a dozen courses we offer (see page two of our Program of Studies). Project Lead the Way refers to our Pre-Engineering and Biomedical Science courses. Many ninth graders choose Digital Input Technology, Integrated Business Applications or Information Technology Foundations.