

Farmington High School Course of Study

Farmington High School provides each student with a high quality core curriculum in mathematics, English, science, social studies, and world languages; stimulating required courses in health and physical education; and a wide range of options in art, music, business, and technology education. Moreover, based on the belief that all students are capable of learning at high levels, Farmington High School has established and continues to establish standards for student performance in each of these courses.

Notable among these standards is a world language proficiency — unique among Connecticut high schools — which requires that all students show evidence of being able to speak, write, read, and listen with facility in a second language before they graduate. And, although it is not yet a requirement for high school graduation, all 10th grade students take the Critical/Analytical Writing Assessment each spring to determine the extent to which they are able to write thoughtfully and clearly about a work of literature they have studied. Standards for student performance are also either being embedded or have been embedded in each of the high school's areas of study.

The purpose of implementing these standards is to be certain, not only that students acquire important knowledge, but also that they understand what they have learned thoroughly enough to apply that knowledge in new situations. Farmington High School's drive toward high standards for all students is made more effective by a writing across the curriculum initiative designed to improve student writing, as well to enhance their understanding of the content in each course.

Farmington High School students' performance is also measured against by rigorous state and national standards. Student performance on the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) has traditionally been at or near the top in the state. Moreover, both the participation rate in and the performance of FHS students on Advanced Placement tests have been among the highest in the nation. As one indication of this, Farmington High School was cited by the College Board in 1999 as the top school in the northeast for its students' performance in Advanced Placement Exams. In addition, in March 2000 Farmington High School was the only school in Connecticut cited by *Newsweek* as one of the nation's top one hundred high schools.

Having set high standards for student performance, the faculty takes seriously its obligation to provide support for students as they work toward those standards. Students who do not meet expectations are assigned to tutorials. Review sessions are provided by teachers for students who want to improve their work. Finally, the first half-hour at the conclusion of each school day is reserved for teachers and students to meet for extra assistance.

For more information about the Farmington High School Program of Studies, please call the guidance department 860-673-4393.