

# EXPECT MORE

YOUR NINTH GRADE YEAR AT CWA



CHARLES WRIGHT  
ACADEMY  
CHARLESWRIGHT.ORG



The Upper School's four-year course of study is **designed to create well-rounded, passionate, versatile, serious scholars** capable of effective communication, sustained work, independent thought, and original expression—while they're having fun. During their ninth grade year, students are introduced to an academic program that **recognizes and develops individual strengths** while building competence across academic, athletic, and extracurricular pursuits.

## Math

Math placement is based on what each student studied in Middle School. Most ninth graders take either **intermediate algebra**, covering trigonometry, factoring, polynomials, and quadratic equations; or **honors geometry**, covering inductive- and discovery-based approaches to geometry, along with deductive reasoning and proofs.

### Taught by:



**José Cruz**  
Algebra II  
Harvard U, MEd  
Ateneo de  
Manila U, BS  
Appointed in 2015



**Gil LeFrancois**  
Honors Geometry  
U of Washington, BA  
Appointed in 1983



**Laurel Webster**  
Intermediate Algebra  
Tufts, MS  
Hamilton, BA  
Appointed in 2005

## Science

**Biology** provides an introduction to many diverse fields of science, including microbiology, genetics, physiology, ecology, and evolution. Emphasis is placed on problem solving and scientific inquiry. Students gain experience designing experiments and analyzing data. Students are also introduced to many of the laboratory skills required in the eight other science courses offered at Charles Wright.

### Taught by:



**Neil Biermann**  
U of Washington, MS  
Washington State, BS  
Appointed in 2006



**Ryan Johnson**  
Bowdoin, BS  
Appointed in 2007

## History

**Twentieth century world history** covers the people, the ideas, and the events that have transformed the world since 1900. Students study European imperialism in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, and then they focus on the period from World War I through the Cold War. They conduct research projects and read several works of literature from the period. The goal is to instill in each student a foundation for better understanding today's world.

### Taught by:



**Laryssa Schmidt**  
Washington State, BA  
Appointed in 2012



**Susan Sparrow**  
Pomona, BA  
Appointed in 2008

## English

**Literary genres and composition** examines the short story, poetry, the epic, the novel, and drama as well as works by Shakespeare, Homer, and others. Focusing on expository writing, students learn sound paragraph construction, which leads to the development of multi-paragraph essays. Vocabulary and grammar are key elements of the freshman English curriculum.

### Taught by:



**Patti Crouch-Cook**  
Western WA, MEd  
U of Wyoming, BA  
Appointed in 1998



**Lydia Roberts**  
Johns Hopkins, BA  
Appointed in 2004



**Rob Scotlan**  
U of Puget Sound, MAT  
U of Puget Sound, BA  
Appointed in 2006



## World Languages

Depending on their course of study in Middle School, most ninth graders take either a 100- or a 200-level course in Spanish, Japanese, or French.

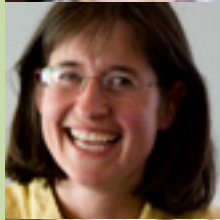
### Taught by:



**Adam Auter**  
Spanish 100  
Wabash, BA  
Appointed in 2012



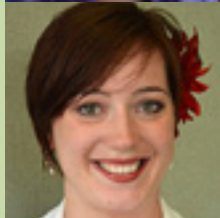
**Dr. Dana Flakerud**  
Honors Spanish 200  
Columbia, PhD  
Hunter C of City, MA  
U of Washington, BA  
Appointed in 2008



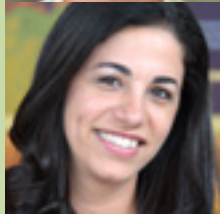
**Stephanie Glenn**  
Japanese 200  
U of Washington, BA  
Appointed in 1994



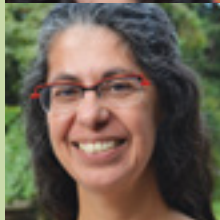
**Alia Greenbaum**  
Japanese 100  
C of William & Mary, BA  
Appointed in 2013



**Maren Hassenger**  
French 100  
Seattle Pacific, MAT  
U of Washington,  
MEd  
Oregon State, BS  
Appointed in 2012



**Yanelly Mesa**  
Spanish 200  
U of Granada, MAT  
Dallas Baptist U, BS  
Appointed in 2015



**Christine Telal**  
French 200  
U d'Aix-en-Provence,  
MA  
U of Houston, MA  
Appointed in 2014

## Ninth Grade Seminar

Seminars are divided into trimesters of civics; safe and appropriate uses of technology; and the fundamental precepts of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism.



**Political  
Citizenship**  
**Rob Camner**  
Ohio State, MS  
Oberlin, BA  
Appointed in 1996



**Bill Chisoe**  
AP Computer Science  
Civics  
U of Oklahoma, BS  
Appointed in 2015



**Susan Sparrow**  
Pomona, BA  
Appointed in 2008



**Digital Citizenship**  
**Holly Gerla**  
U of Puget Sound,  
MAT  
U of Puget Sound,  
BA  
Appointed in 2008



**Jane Riches**  
U of Illinois, MLS  
U of Minnesota, BA  
Appointed in 2004



**World Religions**  
**Rev. Mike Moffitt**  
Regent C, MDiv  
Southern Methodist  
U, BFA  
Appointed in 2005

# Arts, Athletics, and Physical Education

Every student is required to take a full year of performing arts and a full year of visual arts. Students also need seven seasons of interscholastic athletics or a combination of athletics, fitness, and activities. Most ninth graders take one or two electives as they begin fulfilling these requirements. They also may choose to add an extra language, a study hall, or an open period.

## Performing Arts



**John Forier**  
Technical Theater  
Improvisation  
U of Arizona, BFA  
Appointed in 1998



**Heidi Huckins**  
String Orchestra  
Symphonic Band  
Jazz Ensemble  
Instrumental Music  
U of Colorado at  
Boulder, MM  
U of New  
Hampshire, BM  
Appointed in 1999



**Rafe Wadleigh**  
CWA Choir  
Guitar  
Modern Music  
Ensemble  
Western Washington,  
BMus  
Appointed in 2011

## Visual Arts



**Nick Bivins**  
Ceramics  
Photography  
Ohio U, MFA  
U of Washington, BFA  
Appointed in 2014



**Christina Bertucchi**  
Digital Media  
Painting and Drawing  
Printmaking  
Sculpture  
RISD, MAT  
Wheaton, BA  
Appointed in 2014



**Kate Rue**  
Yearbook  
U of Washington, BFA  
Art Institute of  
Seattle, AA  
Appointed in 2014

## Fitness



**Saraïd Faville**  
U of Montana, BA  
Appointed in 2006



**Kate Rue**  
After-School Fitness  
U of Washington, BFA  
Art Institute of  
Seattle, AA  
Appointed in 2014

## Athletics

**Fall:** cross-country, football, girls' soccer, boys' tennis, and volleyball

**Winter:** basketball and dance

**Spring:** baseball, golf, boys' soccer girls tennis, and track and field.



# Student Support

Caring relationships between faculty and students that nurture the values of hard work, accountability, resilience, perseverance, and self management are an integral part of a Charles Wright education. Our students are supported and guided through their Upper School careers by highly trained specialists who follow their progress and ensure they have the tools they need to succeed.



**College Counselor**  
**Noel Blyler**  
U of Virginia, MA  
St. John's, BA  
Appointed in 1999



**Additional Support**  
**Sinead Coleman,**  
Learning Specialist  
City U of New York, MA  
U of California at Santa  
Barbara, BA  
Appointed in 2013



**College Counselor  
and Academic Dean**  
**Katie Ryan**  
Occidental, BA  
Appointed in 1999



**Rev. Mike Moffitt,** Chaplain  
Regent C, MDiv  
Southern Methodist, BFA  
Appointed in 2005



**Deans of Students**  
**Annie Senner**  
For Ninth and 10th Grades  
Middlebury, MA  
U of San Diego, BA  
Appointed in 2004



**Jane Riches,** Librarian  
U of Illinois, MLS  
U of Minnesota, BA  
Appointed in 2004



**Laurel Webster**  
For 11th and 12th Grades  
Tufts, MS  
Hamilton, BA  
Appointed in 2005



**Todd Ritchie,** Counselor  
Walla Walla, MSW  
U of Minnesota, BA  
Appointed in 2007

