

**Woodbridge High School**  
**Independent Study Syllabus**  
**2022-2023 – Recreating the Future**

Mr. Brake –Library Media Center

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## **Independent Study Grade 10, 11 and 12**

Independent Study is an assigned period, considered a class without credit, where students may use the time to work on their Senior Project as needed, but also utilize time to strengthen their current courses, explore resources, research skills, and college preparation as well with the Certified Librarian present in the WHS Library Media Center.

This opportunity takes place at a scheduled time in the High School Library and is an excellent opportunity to have access to resources, strengthen current academic needs, and lays the foundation for success in all interest areas on part of the student. While Independent Study does NOT count as a credit in the scheme of courses that can be chosen, opportunities available will be worth more than a class credit if taken advantage of while in Independent Study and the time students have. Students are asked to abide by the Parent-Student-Teacher compact in their 2022-2023 handbook to be successful as an IS (Independent Study) student.

Not considered a study hall, Independent Study does provide learning experiences in 3D printing, Green Screen production, acquiring resources essential to all our student courses, and provides ample opportunity to help students strengthen areas they might be weak in. Students will learn utilizing this time well can result in some exciting opportunities in and outside of the school setting. Opportunities, resources, and synthesis from course to extensions into the community are all born within the Independent Study period allowing students to explore, gain valuable time to complete current coursework, and receive support in a variety of ways beyond their current coursework.

### **Student Responsibilities to Be Successful**

1. Students are asked to report to the Media Center Library before the bell similar to any other expectation in any other course. Tardies and absences are no different than any other course and per the course handbook, students absent without an official excuse and hall wandering are not a part of the success Independent Study reinforces. Only emergencies are to be expected for hall passes or meeting with a teacher- a pass must be obtained ahead of time from EHall pass to enter to meet another teacher to reduce hall traffic and maximize the benefits of an Independent Study course.
2. To be a successful student and have Independent Study as an assigned course, the Independent Study student uses their time efficiently and is respectful of others in the Library Media Center. Every interim and marking period contacts will be made with guardians/parents to update how the student is utilizing the Independent Study course. **Please provide several reliable points of contact so documentation of communicating between the Independent Study instructor and parent/guardian can occur.** Recommendations, concerns, and suggestions can be communicated to facilitate the top level of opportunity for anyone enrolled in Independent Study.
3. Independent Study students are supportive and respectful members of the Woodbridge community, demonstrating courtesy toward others through words, actions and attitudes. **Respect will be expected to be given to others as is to be received.**
4. Independent Study students take care of library materials, equipment, furniture, and facilities supporting a productive, welcoming and positive learning environment in the Library Media Center. Beverages and food are discouraged unless mutually agreed upon by the Library Media Center director and students/faculty. The Media Center should not be used as a breakroom or cafeteria, but as a clean, open, educational, flexible, relaxing space where others can enjoy after students that are here finish. Students will be asked to maintain clean areas before leaving the Library Media Center.
5. Independent Study students are asked to have an appropriate Ehall pass when arriving late to the Library Media Center and for early dismissal. Enrolled students are asked to take care of this ahead of time, BEFORE arriving and BEFORE dismissal. The first ten minutes and last ten minutes of no hall travel, as well as passes for emergencies only, and all other policies as in the handbook are applied to Independent Study.

The Library Media Center director/instructor is often utilizing class time for those in the class and while this might occur occasionally due to unforeseen circumstances, this should not be a regular occurrence. Prior appointments and early dismissal of course are honored, but need to be preplanned to occur.

6. Dress code policies, (especially due to new, adjusted dress codes, yeah!) as well as all class expectations as spelled out in the Student Handbook/agenda will apply. Please be aware, students are expected to enter the Library Media Center with the proper dress code.

## **Student Access/ Opportunity**

1. Independent Study is NOT a study hall, phone chat area, video movie center, or a space to serve as a gym (though there is a lot of space, isn't there?!) Phones calls of course be utilized but asked to be out on silent so conversations, videos, and other media are confined to the user alone, and not shared among all visiting the WHS LMC. Phones will be asked to be kept at the front desk after two concurrent instances of phones being played out loud and not on silent mode, to be given back to student at the end of the class. Again, use is encouraged, just on silent mode while in Independent Study courses.

2. Students will have fair and respectful treatment from the Media Center librarians, as well as opportunities to explore new resources.

3. Students are asked to be aware of the absence and tardy policies, as all apply, and while grades are not a part of Independent Study, all other student/class/teacher responsibilities carry forward.

4. Students DO have the freedom to utilize phones but will be asked to place phones on silent, so phones, loud conversations, and distractions in the form of loud videos, calls, conversations do NOT occur repeatedly. Student use is definitely encouraged, but while using silent forms of communication. Phones will be asked to be kept at the front desk after two concurrent instances of phones being played out loud and not on silent mode, to be given back to student at the end of the class. Again, use is encouraged, just on silent mode while in Independent Study courses.

5. Students can always count on the support of the Media Center librarians in any academic or non-academic situation.

6. Students do have access to technology, resources, equipment, within the Library Media Center as needed and desired.

7. Students do have the ability to provide input to displays, activities, and more being planned while a student in the Independent Study Course.

**8. DO NOT BE AFRAID TO INQUIRE. of All the reasons to have an Independent Study course, it is to explore, strengthen, and define new skills, learning and existing learning. DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK TO BE A PART OF AN OPPORTUNITY OR TO HELP CREATE ONE!**

9. Independent Study students will be protected at all times in the Library Media Center - doors will be LOCKED to promote safety, security, and allow personnel to know students are safely inside. Emergency doors and entrance doors are NOT to be propped open. **Locked doors do NOT mean patrons are NOT welcome**, just the opposite. Ehall passes will insure all students/faculty/staff that do want to participate in the plethora of events occurring in the Library Media Center WILL be able to do so!

**SIGNATURE**

**PRINTED NAME**

\_\_\_\_\_ *(Parent)* \_\_\_\_\_ *(Date)*

\_\_\_\_\_ *(Student)* \_\_\_\_\_ *(Date)*

**By signing this agreement, I accept all terms in them and understand I forfeit my right to have Independent Study when I forfeit the responsibilities and expectations of an Independent Study student. I will accept the consequences, if I fail to meet these expectations. I will uphold the values of Woodbridge District and the Woodbridge High School, while abiding by the expectations of being scheduled for Independent Study, as outlined above.**

**SIGNATURE**

**PRINTED NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ *(Date)* \_\_\_\_\_

**Library Media Specialist**

