



2024-2025 Fall Courses, 9th Grade

Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements for each graduating class can vary due to changes in the curriculum and/or schedule as well as changes in state requirements. As a Harbor City student, you are choosing to value and engage with a creative, academically challenging setting. Harbor City requires all students meet its unique, local requirements in addition to the minimum state graduation requirements. Specific details can be found in the [HCIS Student Handbook](#), Chapter 3: Academic Program, section 10.

To receive a Harbor City Diploma, students must earn 25.5+ credits generally broken down as follows:

<u>Subject Area</u>	<u>Credits Required</u>
Language Arts	4
Social Studies	4
Science	4
Math	3
Spanish	2
Creative Arts	1
Health & Fitness	0.5
Freshman Seminar	0.5
General Electives/Symposium	6.5
Service Learning	0.5

Each semester, students will meet with their academic advisor to check in on their graduation progress. If a student fails a class(es), it may affect their ability to graduate within 4 years.

Choosing Honors, AP, and CITS classes at Harbor City:

AP = Harbor City International School offers Advanced Placement courses in many disciplines and weighted credit is reserved for Advanced Placement courses. Advanced Placement coursework is nationally recognized for both the quality of the instruction and the content and skills taught during the course. Although individual colleges and universities may decide to honor Advanced Placement coursework for college credit, many will grant college credit for students who score a 3 or better on the Advanced Placement tests at the end of the school year.

Honors = Students may enroll in HCIS honors courses for high school honors acknowledgment. Honors eligibility requires the student to possess a strong passion for the course content and previous evidence of exemplary work in the subject matter. Honors curriculum, characterized by rigorous study and high expectations, will closely match college curriculum

[Click here to jump to Elective Descriptions](#)



2024-2025 Fall Courses, 9th Grade

Core Classes

Language Arts — 4 Credits

Required Course of Study

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Credits</u>
9th/10th	American Literature	Year	1
9th/10th	World Literature	Year	1
11th/12th	Literary Analysis	Year	1
11th/12th	Composition & Rhetoric	Year	1

Core Language Arts classes are offered on an every other year rotating basis. Whether a student has American Literature in 9th or 10th grade depends on which option is being offered in their 9th grade year. 9th and 10th graders are combined for Language Arts classes. In the 2024 - 2025 school year, all 9th and 10th graders will be in American Literature. Students starting the 9th grade in 2024 will take World Literature in 10th grade with the incoming 9th graders of the 2025 - 2026 school year. This also applies to the combined Language Arts classes for 11th and 12th graders.

Honors American Literature (grades 9-10)

Honors American Literature is designed to expose students to perspectives represented by American Literature of various genres and introduce students to the skills and critical thinking necessary for AP/CITS courses. The course's foundation is the standards for AP Literature and AP Composition and the Common Core Reading Standards for Literature and Informational Text. Emphasis is placed on developing skills necessary for writing literary analysis through examination of the author's diction, syntax, tone, and voice.

American Literature (grades 9-10)

American Literature focuses on reading, writing, and critical thinking. We read novels, short stories, plays, and poetry by American writers. Students practice writing skills through daily writing prompts and learning and practicing the process of writing academic essays. The course's foundation is the Common Core Reading Standards for Literature and Informational Text.

Fundamentals of American Literature (grades 9-10)

Like American Literature, Fundamentals of American Literature focuses on reading, writing and critical thinking using novels, short stories and plays by American writers. The Fundamentals course takes time to develop the practical reading, vocabulary and writing skills needed to accelerate student achievement for students who may struggle with reading and writing. The



2024-2025 Fall Courses, 9th Grade

course's foundation is the Common Core Reading Standards for Literature and Informational Text.

Social Studies — 4 Credits

Required Course of Study

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Credits</u>
9th/10th	US History	Year	1
9th/10th	US Government	Year	1
11th/12th	World History	Year	1
11th/12th	European History	Year	1

Core Social Studies classes are offered on an every other year rotating basis. Whether a student has US History in 9th or 10th grade depends on which option is being offered in their 9th grade year. 9th and 10th graders are combined for Social Studies classes. In the 2024 - 2025 school year, all 9th and 10th graders will be in US History. Students starting the 9th grade in 2024 will take US Government in 10th grade with the incoming 9th graders of the 2025 - 2026 school year. This also applies to the combined Social Studies classes for 11th and 12th graders.

AP US History (grade 9-10)

In AP U.S. History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change. The course also provides eight themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places. In addition, this course seeks to prepare students to successfully complete the AP US History exam in May. Interested students should have a strong work ethic and the skills to work independently. Students should expect on average 4 hours of homework per week. *Requires instructor approval for registration; speak with teachers at registration.*

US History (grades 9-10)

United States History will focus on aspects of US history while satisfying the United States History Minnesota state academic standard. Study will begin with a look at cultures indigenous to the Americas and first contact with Europeans (*the pre-colonial period*). Students will then study the development of the American colonies (*the colonial period*) before moving on to a study of the history of the United States as a sovereign nation (*1776 through the present day*). Study will include important social, economic, and political developments that occurred throughout the history of the continent, the colony, and the nation. Students will complete daily readings and assignments, take part in classroom discussions, listen to lectures, write critically, complete projects, and work to understand how the United States grew from a small, coastal colony to the major world power it is today.



2024-2025 Fall Courses, 9th Grade

Fundamentals of US History (grades 9-10)

Fundamentals of United States History will focus on aspects of US history while satisfying the United States History Minnesota state academic standard. Fundamentals of US History covers the same curriculum as the traditional US History course, but uses alternate reading, assessments, and other tools meant to provide developing readers and students with the access they need to the curriculum. The Fundamentals course works to prepare students for success in future classes by building on their writing and reading skills. A variety of accommodations will be used in class to meet the needs of developing students. Study will begin with a look at cultures indigenous to the Americas and first contact with Europeans (*the pre-colonial period*). Students will then study the development of the American colonies (*the colonial period*) before moving on to a study of the history of the United States as a sovereign nation (*1776 through the present day*). Study will include important social, economic, and political developments that occurred throughout the history of the continent, the colony, and the nation. Students will complete daily readings and assignments, take part in classroom discussions, listen to lectures, write critically, complete projects, and work to understand how the United States grew from a small, coastal colony to the major world power it is today.

Science — 4 Credits

Required Course of Study

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Credits</u>
9th	Physics A	Fall Semester	.5
9th	Earth & Space Science	Spring Semester	.5
10th	Biology	Year	1
11th	Chemistry	Year	1
12th	Physics B	Semester	.5
10th-12th	Science Elective	Semester	.5

Physics A - 0.5 Credit (Fall of grade 9)

The Physics A course at Harbor City is a one-semester course which will meet State Standards in Science and Engineering, along with State Physics standards related to kinematics and mechanics. Throughout the course, students will perform and interpret experiments which relate position, time, velocity, acceleration, and force, and students will solve problems related to these concepts. Students will also focus on collecting data, graphing and analyzing data, and presenting data to their peers.



2024-2025 Fall Courses, 9th Grade

Math — 3 Credits

Math offers three tracks for graduation:

Grade	Essential Track	College Prep Track	Advanced Track
9th	Algebra Skill Builder	Intermediate Algebra	Geometry
10th	Intermediate Algebra	Geometry	Algebra II
11th	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus
12th	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus OR Statistics	AP Calculus*

All students are required to complete math classes through Algebra II AND complete 3 credits of math. This means that students who start on the College Prep or Advanced track may choose to replace their 12th grade math class with a non-math elective as long as all 3 prior math classes were passed.

Intermediate Algebra

Intermediate Algebra is a year-long course that strengthens students' understanding of Algebra concepts and prepares them for Geometry and Algebra II. The main topics covered include graphing, solving linear equations and systems, solving quadratic equations, radicals, and rational expressions and equations.

Geometry (Prerequisites: Algebra I/Intermediate Algebra, Instructor Recommendation)

Geometry is a yearlong course which is required for graduation from HCIS. Topics include: properties of plane and solid figures; deductive methods of reasoning and use of logic, study of postulates, theorems, and formal proofs; concepts of congruence, similarity, parallelism, perpendicularity, and proportion; and rules of angle measurement in triangles. In addition, there is a unit on probability and counting principles.



2024-2025 Fall Courses, 9th Grade

World Language - 2 Credits (Spanish I and II required)

Overview of Spanish Courses at HCIS

In all Spanish classes students learn and practice various concepts and skills in the target language through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students learn language in context through stories and personalized comprehensible input. They will be able to understand practiced language as well as ask for and give information and tell about themselves and others. Students will also explore cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking world. Daily attendance and participation are required for success in these courses.

Required Course of Study

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Credits</u>
Recommend to begin in 9th or 10th	Spanish I	Year	1
Start year after passing Spanish I	Spanish II	Year	1

Spanish I

This course is for students with little or no previous study of Spanish. A student who studied Spanish in middle school may choose to take Spanish I if they feel they need a stronger foundation for advanced study. Students work primarily in the present tense to build their vocabulary and understanding of written and spoken Spanish. Emphasis is placed on comprehension of Spanish, not production.

Spanish II

Students continue to develop and improve listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Spanish II moves from primarily comprehension of Spanish to productive skills like writing and speaking. Learning of new vocabulary and structures takes place through stories and comprehensible input.



2024-2025 Fall Courses, 9th Grade

Electives

In addition to passing all required core classes, a Harbor City diploma requires students earn 8.5+ credits in electives, generally broken down as follows:

<u>Subject Area</u>	<u>Credits Required</u>
Creative Arts	1 - credit can be from Art and/or music
Health & Fitness	.5
Freshman Seminar	.5
General Electives/Symposium	6.5

How Electives work:

- Elective classes only last 1 semester unless otherwise indicated.
- Students will typically have 4 electives over the course of a year: two electives in Fall, and two new electives in Spring. Students register for electives twice a year.
- Enrollment in Spanish I or II will reduce the number of electives a student can take in a semester by 1.
- Starting with the 2024 - 2025 school year, Harbor City will move to a 7 period day. This means that each semester students may choose a 3rd elective or a study hall. **Please note that students may only take one study hall per semester, even if elective requirements are completed.**

Art Electives

Art Foundations

Art Foundations offers art experiences in a variety of topics, techniques and mediums. We create, play, investigate, reflect, write, question, and observe. With your own effort, you will leave this class confident you can develop and express your ideas using visual language. Art Foundations A or B fulfills the prerequisite for Art Studio so start your art here! **This class meets the MN state standard in the Visual Arts for High School required for graduation.**

Art Foundations A (Fall) - 0.5 Credit

Section A emphasizes Observation, Identity, and Self Expression with a focus on drawing and painting mediums. This class can be taken alone or continue into Art Foundations B or Art Studio.



2024-2025 Fall Courses, 9th Grade

Digital Photography (Fall) - 0.5 Credit

This course focuses on the basic operations and techniques involved in photography, with an emphasis on using a digital single lens reflex camera. You will learn about photographic techniques, composition, lighting, and how to manipulate your device to create specific results. Digital image editing tools will be learned using Photopea.com. In addition to image manipulation, you will use computers to manage, archive and share (via a digital portfolio) your photographs. Cameras are available in class, bringing your own DSLR camera is allowed.

Music Electives

Choir - 0.5 Credit

Choir is a non-auditioned group for students who enjoy singing. We perform many styles of choral literature including classical, pop, gospel, and African repertoire. We practice the following skills: proper breathing, pleasant vocal production, blend and balance, expansion of range, good intonation, ear training, and sight-reading. Students will all participate in concerts and contests. Think of this class as a year-long class, and expect occasional evening and weekend commitments with this ensemble.

CITS Music History and Listening (Fall) - 0.5 Credit

This elective course provides opportunities to strengthen students' music listening skills in order to deepen their academic understanding of the basic development of music and the people who create it. In this class, students will analyze many pieces of music spanning several eras and civilizations so that they may recognize music as an individual and cultural means of expression and communication. This class culminates with team participation in the 2025 Minnesota High School Music Listening Contest (<http://www.musiclisteningcontest.com/>). Students who place in the top two teams at the regional contest will advance to the State competition on a Friday in February at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. Students may elect to take this course for college credit through Lake Superior College.

String Band and Dance - 0.5 Credit

This unique class (the only one of its kind in the region!) is a hands-on, interactive course that will focus on daily instrument playing and dancing in the Appalachian folk tradition. This class is geared toward beginners, but is accessible to all learners of any skill level. Students will spend approximately half of each period learning to play instruments (specifically fiddle, guitar and banjo), and half of each period dancing. This class will perform in a concert at the end of the semester and may include performances on-site or off-site as the semester progresses.



2024-2025 Fall Courses, 9th Grade

Jazz Band - 0.5 credit

This class is for students who have been playing an instrument for at least one year and are proficient in reading sheet music. This class is open to advanced wind players and rhythm players (guitar, bass, piano, drums). Please note that there is only room for ONE player per part in the rhythm section. This means that if you play guitar and we already have a guitar player, you may be asked to learn a wind instrument. Students will all participate in concerts and contests. Think of this class as a year-long class, and expect occasional evening and weekend commitments with this ensemble.

General Electives

Fiction to Film A (Fall) - 0.5 Credit

In this semester-long offering, students will read a variety of short stories and novels and watch the film adaptations. Students will discuss, write about, and review fiction and movies. Students will also learn about how to write short stories, how to write plays and scripts, and will get the opportunity to write their own short story and adapt it for the stage or screen!

General Psychology (Fall) - 0.5 Credit

This semester-long course will provide you with a broad introduction to the field of psychology. Among the topics we will cover are: nature vs nurture (ever wonder why you react like your parents, even though you vowed you never would?), the developing person, memory, learning, psychological disorders and intelligence. We'll use a combination of lectures, video clips, demonstrations and games (volunteers needed!), and miscellaneous experiences (be on guard!). The goal of the course is to have you want to learn more about psychology and have you ask "What's the evidence?" each time you encounter statements about behavior. Last of all, it should be fun and interesting!

Interpersonal Communication (Fall) - 0.5 Credit

Interpersonal Communication is the process by which 2 or more people exchange information, feelings, and meaning through verbal and non-verbal messages. The study of Interpersonal Communication includes not only what is said, but how it is communicated and the actual versus intended reception. Through projects and reflective work, students will work to become better communicators by practicing active listening, greater self-awareness and self-esteem, nonverbal communication, conflict resolution, and assertiveness. Mastering the ability to communicate meaningfully with peers and adults in a variety of settings can transform your life.



2024-2025 Fall Courses, 9th Grade

Required Electives

Health and Fitness - 0.5 Credit (expected registration Spring 9th grade year)

Health and Fitness asks students to develop and maintain overall fitness and comprehend health concepts. Students will learn to advocate for their own health and practice decision making using given tools and resources. Included are the following fitness objectives: 1) Skill development and rules of each activity. 2) To develop and maintain physical fitness and the habit of engaging in fitness activities. 3) To increase knowledge of the value of physical fitness and of the positive lifetime effects of exercise on the body. 4) To write a long term fitness goal using SMART guidelines and a physical fitness plan to work towards achieving the goal. Students will also learn about the following health topics: alcohol abuse, prescription drug abuse, opioids, injury prevention, anxiety and stress management, importance of sleep, nutrition basics, sexual health, and preventing sexual violence. The goal of this course is for students to learn how to be active and make healthy fitness choices throughout their life.

Freshman seminar - 0.5 Credit (expected registration Fall 9th grade year)

This course is intended to help you get to know your peers, yourself and your school and help you find success in high school. The HCIS mission is to foster academic success and nurture a sense of belonging. In Freshman Seminar, we will address both as we practice skills to find success in and out of school including: identifying academic strengths and weak areas, planning for your future, building strong, positive relationships with other students and teachers by building communication skills and engaging in activities and games to build connections. **This course is required for all enrolled 9th graders in the fall of your first year. (beginning Fall 2024)**