



Westland High School

International Newsletter

September, 2011

New Zealand's National Qualification System

The National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) is the main national qualification for secondary school students in New Zealand. There are three levels of NCEA certificate, depending on the difficulty of the standards achieved. In general, students work through levels 1 to 3 in years 11 to 13 at school:

- Level 1 – Year 11
- Level 2 – Year 12
- Level 3 – Year 13 - the final year at high school and entry requirements for university.
- Scholarship is a very advanced level and available in many subjects.

NCEA assessments measure what a student knows or can do against the registered criteria of a standard in courses they study. If they meet the criteria, they achieve the standard, and gain credits towards a qualification. There are four grades available for achievement standards:

- Achieved (A) for a satisfactory performance
- Merit (M) for very good performance
- Excellence (E) for outstanding performance
- Not achieved (N) if students do not meet the criteria of the standard

Each subject has four hours of instruction time per week. Students in Year 11 and 12 take 6 subjects and Year 13 students choose 5 subjects.

For more information on New Zealand's National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) please visit: <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/>

Specialist courses for senior students at Westland High School

[1,2,3] Denotes the level of this course.

Outdoor Education [2,3]

Level 2

Day tramps, camping, navigation, snow shelters, rock climbing, kayaking including rolling and grade 1 whitewater, ropes.

Level 3

Bush survival, overnight in the mountains, kayaking – grade 2 whitewater, ropes, knots, anchors and belays for rock climbing and abseiling.

Physical Education [1,2,3]

Participate in physical activities, learn body structure and anatomy, teamwork, training, safety management, .



Languages

Te Reo (Maori) [1]

Written, and spoken.

French [1,2,3]

Spoken, and written.

Availability depends on student numbers.

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) [1,2,3].

IELTS available for advanced students.

English [1,2,3]

Novel, film, creative writing, formal writing, speeches, research, reading different texts.

Specialist courses for senior students at Westland High School (continued)

The Arts



Visual Arts [1,2,3]

A range of media – drawing, painting, printmaking, and design.

Drama [1,2,3]

Improvisation and scripted performances. The community Hokitika Dramatic Society also produces musicals and drama for all ages and our students are often involved.

Music [1,2,3]

Performance, composition and research. Rock band competitions. Community brass band and jazz group available

Art History [3]

Iconographic motifs, style, media, art theory, an art issue.

Photography [2,3]

Printing and art-making methods



Mathematics

Mathematics [1,2]

Algebra, tables, equations, geometry, chance and data, measurement, triangles, trigonometry, probability.

Calculus [3]

Derivatives, differential equations, trigonometric functions, conic sections.

Statistics [3] Curve fitting, probability, bi-variate data, equations.

Accounting [1,2,3]

For small business, sole proprietor, financial statements.

Sciences

General Science [1]

Course A – Science for Advancement: mechanics, electricity, acids/ bases, chemical reactions, genetics.

Course B – Science for Life: heat, metals, astronomy, micro-organisms, land formation

Chemistry [2,3]

Acid-base volumetric analysis, nature of structure and bonding, quantitative chemical problems, gravimetric analysis, oxidants, titration, organic chemistry.

Biology [2,3]

Genetics, ecology, animals, cell structure, ecosystems, use microscope. Animal behavior and plant responses, DNA, evolution.

Physics [2,3]

Wave systems, mechanics, atoms and radioactivity, electricity and electromagnetism.

Social Sciences

Geography [1]

Natural events, population issues, resources used in farming / mining, research

Eco-Geography [2,3]

Research, geographic topic on global scale, consequences of human activity.. sustainable future.

History [1,2,3]

1 – origins of World War 1, NZ 1945 – 85, Black Civil Rights in USA, Ireland 1909 – 1922

2 – Russian revolution, Weimar Republic and Nazi Germany, Vietnam 1945 – 1975, Cold war.

3 – New Zealand History

Classical Studies [2,3]

Ancient Rome or Greece, myths and religion, social life, art and architecture, Homeric literature, Socrates or Alexander the Great.

Tourism [2,3]

New Zealand and Australia as tourist destinations, work roles in tourism, world tourist destinations



Specialist courses for senior students at Westland High School (continued)

Technology

Furniture [1,2]

Safety, 2D drawings on computer, woodworking techniques, timber species, adhesives, handtools, produce wooden furniture, hand turn wood, band saw, flat bed sander.

Engineering [1,2,3]

Design and make engineering products in metal, safety, hand tools.

Food [1,2,3]

Food hygiene, sauces, soup, meat, fruit, vegetable, egg, cheese and salad dishes, preserves, nutritious food, knife care.



Computing [1,2,3]

Desktop publishing, web page design, spreadsheets, powerpoint presentations, keyboarding skills, and wordprocessing.

Textiles [1,2,3]

Design, make products from textiles materials, make a lined skirt, leisure and child's garment, garment for formal occasion, low cost clothing.

Graphics [1,2,3]

Freehand sketches, instrumental multi-view orthographic drawings, 2D and 3D drawings, build model of architectural or engineering brief.

Work experience [1,2,3]

We have students working on farms, building, automotive, hospitality etc – as negotiated with Careers Advisor.



The full curriculum document will be available on the Westland High School website from 1 October 2011.
www.westlandhigh.school.nz

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