

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday, October 22, 2008, 5:30 PM

Attending: Board Members - Ray Tai, Mary Hartnett, Barbara Garrity,
Administrators - Mary Beth Currie, Barbara Duncan, Bill Loughran, Eric Swensen,
Teachers - Mathew J. Goetke, John Koryat
Absent: Jerry Burke

Honors Music:

Mr. Matt Geotke, Director of Vocal Music, and Mr. John Koryat, Director of Instrumental Music, proposed a plan for Music students to earn Honors course designation by earning 10 points from participating and completing advanced musical activities, such as auditions, additional music studies, and written assignments beyond the regular course requirements. The Honors designation is only available to students for their 2nd and subsequent years of music course. This will provide additional challenge and opportunities for our musically inclined students, and also offer them a equal opportunities in terms of GPA calculation. The committee recommends the board to adopt this plan for 09-10 school year.

Numerical Grade to Letter Grade Conversion:

Bill Loughran and Eric Swenson brought to the committee's attention inconsistencies among 2 BOE regulations and the report card. After the discussion, the committee agrees that 90-100 is A, 80-89 is B, and so on and so forth. The final numeric points shall be rounded to whole numbers using a standard rounding algorithm before it is converted to letter grade. This is just a clarification, and is effective as of today. All documents will be updated for consistency and be sent to the board for approval.

Valedictorian & Salutatorian Calculation:

Mr. Loughran and Mr. Swenson indicated that the current policy requires that best 7 courses for 9th/10th/11th grades and 6 best courses from 12th grade be included for the calculation, which was from a time long ago when we allowed our seniors to have a free period. It has been observed that the special treatment for senior year is no longer valid and fair. They propose to amend it to 7 best courses for each of the 4 years. The committee recommends the board to adopt this revised policy for 09-10 school year.

Lunch Exemption:

Bill Loughran and Eric Swenson also brought to the committee their concerns for students who are skipping lunch to take one extra course. This may not be good for a student's overall development – both health-wise and socially. This is particularly problematic for freshman year since the students are still transitioning from middle school to high school. Mr. Loughran and Mr. Swenson propose to not allow lunch exemption for freshman year; but still allow it for 10th grade and up since, under current schedule, that is the only way for a student to continue their music courses while fulfilling other graduation requirements. The committee recommends the board to adopt this plan for 09-10 school year.

Honors Organic Chemistry:

It has been discussed before to re-classify the current Organic Chemistry to Honors Organic Chemistry. The committee recommends the board to adopt this plan for 09-10 school year. Note that many of the items above will be part of the 09-10 Program of Study.

Honors Advanced Research:

The course is listed as 3 credits on the Program of Study by mistake while it should be 6 credits. It is implemented as 6 credit course now. This is just a correction.

CAP Grant:

We received a \$600 Grant from the CAP of Monmouth County for our substance abuse avoidance program. The remaining cost of \$3,468 will be donated by the Alliance.

Items for Approval:

5 Curriculum Guides have been reviewed and approved, see C&I agenda for more details.

There are also generous donations from PSA, HHS Football and Cheerleading Parents Association, Holmdel Alliance, Mr. and Mrs. Martorelli, and Holmdel Schools Music Association.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

Nov – Satz LA Review

Dec – restructure and enhancements of HS Visual Arts Program

Next Meeting: 6:00pm, 11/12/08, Satz Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Tai