

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 5:30 PM

Attending: Board Members – Jerry Burke, Barbara Garrity and Mary Hartnett
Administrators - Mary Beth Currie , Barbara Duncan; Guest: Susan Alston
Absent: Ray Tai

Language Arts Review:

Ms. Alston reported on the on-going review of this program. It offers a double period of Language Arts and is designed to reinforce concepts, thus helping Satz students attain all NJCCCS and proficiency on state assessments. At present, however, these students (about 30) do not receive World Language instruction, which is not acceptable.

There are also about 60 AIS (Academic Intervention Services) HS students who are not receiving World Language Instruction. She and the staff are examining possible solutions, including other districts' practices.

Test Results:

Ms. Currie will report general test results only this evening, as subgroup scores will not be released until early December. Last minute changes have been made by both the state and federal governments to the scores required to meet AYP. The district have time now to challenge the AYP results for the district before the results are released to the Public.

DRAFT Program of Studies – HHS:

We reviewed the first draft, with approval of a final draft expected at our December BOE meeting. Please share your comments or questions with Ms. Currie. Substantive changes from last year include:

- p. 6: New course: Computer Animation. Prereq is Intro to Web Design
- p. 9 New course: Intro to Philosophy. For grades 11 and 12 only.
- p 10 Placement criteria for Honors English grade 9 now includes the first 3 marking period grades from 8th grade (was the final grade).
- p. 12 Foundations in Algebra and Geometry course eliminated.
Algebra 1A course description expanded to include probability.
Algebra 1 prerequisite changed to delete reference to Foundations in Algebra & Geometry option.
- p. 13 New course title – Introduction to Pre-Calculus. Was Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry.
Prerequisite for Honors Pre-Calculus changed to add Departmental Review for students entering from non-honors class. That transition led to the highest number of requests to drop to a lower level this year.
- p. 14 AP Calculus AB prerequisite grade lowered to ≥ 70 in Honors PreCalculus. Was ≤ 73 .
AP Calculus BC prerequisite grade raised to ≥ 80 from ≥ 73 . **Post meeting note:** Now ≥ 75 , in the interest of providing students with an opportunity to challenge themselves.
Finite Math (not offered in 2007-08) prerequisite is Algebra 2
Honors Discrete Math w/ Computer Applications: dropped prereq of Intro to Computer Science and Departmental Recommendation in addition to Adv. Algebra 2 (≥ 90)
- p. 15 Intro to Computer Science: Course description no longer contains “files, arrays...and graphics.”
AP Computer Science: New alternate prerequisites of Grade 8 Honors Algebra 1 ($\geq A$) OR Honors Geometry ($>B$)
- p. 16 Typical Math Sequence now reflects that a possible path forward from Algebra 2 includes Finite Math, followed by Intro to PreCalc.
- p. 18 Principles of Chemistry/Lab: Adds a prerequisite of Algebra 1B or 1 for students coming from Principles of Biology (≥ 83) who have not had Physical Science.
- p. 19 New course: Honors Intro to Organic Chemistry/Lab. The course was offered as a non-honors course to offer additional challenge to our “regular” students, but attracted insufficient enrollment to run. Inquiry suggests it was because students felt such a rigorous course deserved honors designation. Hence, this repositioning of the course.
- p. 21 Typical Science Sequence reflects Honors Intro to Organic Chem as an 11th grade course.
- p. 23 Human Geography: New course description which adds analysis of role of geographic resources in regional/world conflicts and immigration.
- p.29 Symphonic Band and Concert Chorus: now include an honors credit option in each.
- p. 29 The Concert Chorus, Symphonic Band, and Jazz Ensemble performance requirement is now more broadly stated. Former language was “Attendance at all concerts and football games (home and away) is mandatory.”
- p. 33 New course: Honors Advanced Latin Seminar: Catullus/Ovid/Horace. This course will be similar in rigor to AP courses, and reflects the AP corporation’s decision to offer the AP Latin: Vergil test on alternate years. AP Latin: Vergil will be offered in 2010-11.

Items for Approval:

The following have been reviewed and approved, see C&I agenda for more details. These will be on next board meeting agenda.

1. Curriculum Guide: Chinese 4; French 2; Spanish, Grade 1; Spanish, Grade 2.
2. Textbook/Supplemental Materials: Among the Hidden – W. R. Satz School. Enhances LA and addresses Holocaust studies in 7th grade.
3. New Course: Computer Animation. This is a subject of great interest to students. Most needed materials are already on hand. Offers opportunities for cross-curricular work with the TV studio course, among others.

Items for Future Discussion:

The committee requested the administration to review whether more HHS Social Science courses are needed

Next Meeting: 5:30pm, 12/10/08, Central Office Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Garrity