Increased Opportunities for EHS Students

The Ellington Board of Education Curriculum Committee approved several new courses for the 2015-2016 school year. In an effort to increase the opportunities for students to participate in rigorous coursework through the UCONN Early College Experience (ECE), the district will offer **ECE French** and **ECE Physics** for the first time this fall. Additionally, the AP/ECE Calculus AB course will now be offered as a more advanced course, **AP/ECE Calculus BC**. With these additional courses, the district now is offering a total of 21 different AP or UCONN ECE courses. Student interest and participation in AP/ECE courses has continued to grow, and an increased participation in the following courses is expected for the 2015-2016 course year: **ECE American Studies**, **AP Statistics**, **AP US History**, and **AP Economics**.

The Curriculum Committee also approved the expansion of electives offered at EHS. A new senior English elective, **Speech and Debate,** will focus on public speaking, speech writing, debate, and interviewing skills. **Robotics** will be offered as a new technology education elective, in which students will work with VEX Robotics kits to learn about mechanical systems, RobotC programming, open-loop systems, motion systems and controls, closed-loop systems, sensors, autonomous behavior, arms and manipulators to move objects. **Fashion Design** has been added as an elective designed to provide students with understanding the role of the fashion industry, the economics of production and manufacturing, and the impact of fashion design. **Yoga for Health and Fitness** will be offered as a PE elective.

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ELLINGTON
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Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Update Spring 2015

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We are pleased to present this update on Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment in the Ellington Public Schools. As a district, Ellington is committed to advancing student achievement through positive school culture and climate, outstanding teaching and leadership, a strong, standards-based curriculum, and effective assessment practices.

Bridges in Mathematics Implementation

During the 2014-2015 school year, teachers in grades K-5 implemented a new mathematics program, *Bridges in Mathematics*. The *Bridges* program is a comprehensive K-5 mathematics curriculum that equips teachers to fully implement the Connecticut Core Standards for Mathematics in a manner that is rigorous, coherent, engaging, and accessible to all learners. The curriculum focuses on developing students' deep understandings of mathematical concepts, proficiency with key skills, and ability to solve complex and novel problems. *Bridges* blends direct instruction, structured investigation, and open exploration.

A *Bridges* classroom features a combination of whole-group, small-group, and independent activities that are problem centered. *Number Corner*, a component of the program, is a collection of quick daily skills activities that makes use of a classroom display, featuring a calendar, growing collections, number lines, and more. The display engages students and contributes to a math-rich environment!

The *Bridges* program incorporates manipulatives and visual models that provide a variety of ways for students to make sense of mathematical concepts, represent and solve problems, attend to precision in their efforts, and communicate about their thinking.

New Technologies Impact Teaching and Learning

Ellington Public Schools believes that technology integration is essential in providing high-quality learning experiences, which develop 21st century skills in communication, collaboration, problem solving, inquiry, and critical thinking. These experiences should engage and empower our students and teachers to be contributing members of a global community.

New Technologies Impact (Cont.)

Google Apps for Education: The addition of Google Apps for Education has helped to transform teaching and learning in the Ellington Public Schools. Students in grades 1-12 have access to Google Apps, which support communication, sharing, and collaboration. Students can access Google accounts at school using one of the 1,400 district-owned Chromebooks or personal devices. Students can also access their accounts at home using any device with an Internet connection. Our upgraded wireless infrastructure and increased access to technology has helped launch this transformation.

EPS Digital Portfolio: Students in grades 3-10 will utilize Google Apps to begin a digital portfolio during the 2015-2016 school year. The creation of a digital portfolio empowers students to be active participants in their personal and academic growth to prepare them for a rapidly changing and complex world. Students will self-select and reflect upon work across a variety of academic and social categories. The portfolio supports personalization of learning and reflection on individual growth across grade levels.

Technology Competencies Continuum: Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, Ellington teachers will begin implementing shared learning experiences to ensure that all students are getting exposure to technology in each class. In addition, the TCC outlines a profile of technology skills a student should have at each grade level. This continuum will continue to grow and evolve to ensure all students are proficient with technology.

How are teaching and learning changing?
Teaching and learning in the Ellington Public Schools are rapidly changing through the increase of devices, infrastructure, and support for teachers. Students communicate with peers and teachers through tools such as e-mail and the comment feature in Google Apps to plan, revise, and produce high-quality work. Students can collaborate with peers, teachers, and the community to create digital projects. Students are able to share work to authentic audiences within the school and community.