

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

## CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 30, 2012

The Curriculum Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met Friday, November 30, 2012, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in the School Administration Building. Present were: Mr. Stephen C. Cullinan, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Erin K. McGurk, Director of Educational Services; Mrs. Kim LaDuke, Mrs. Wendy Ciarci, Mr. William Prenetta, Mrs. Jeanne Dowd, Ms. Mary Gelezunas, Mr. Richard Diamond, Mr. Matt DeLassus, Mr. Michael Stiles, Mrs. Jenny Montgomery, Ellington teachers; and Mr. Gary Blanchette, Mrs. Tracey Kiff-Judson, Mrs. Kristen Picard-Wambolt, and Mr. James Stoughton, members of the Board of Education.

### MINUTES

Dr. McGurk distributed an overview of the new courses being presented. New courses presented were:

- Jewelry and Metals
- Sculpture and 3-D Design
- Personal Career Planning
- Sports and Entertainment Marketing
- Playwriting
- Advanced Placement Seminar in English Language and Composition
- History of Musical Theater
- Songwriting
- Steel Drum Band
- Unified Physical Education

Teachers from each department described the courses and the rationale for new offerings. Please see attachment for complete descriptions of the new courses.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Committee will be on Thursday, January 24, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building.

**Board of Education  
Curriculum Committee  
Review of Proposed Courses for the 2013-14 School Year  
Ellington High School**

**Proposed new courses:**

**ART**

JEWELRY AND METALS

Heterogeneous Class Academic

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 credit

This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of jewelry design and metalworking processes. Jewelry is small scale wearable sculpture; students will study sculptural composition, design and space concerns. Students will work in both traditional and non-traditional materials including found objects and recycled materials. Emphasis is on concept, creativity and problem solving and includes incorporating construction and function into the design of the object. Students will explore the scope and limitations of contemporary jewelry fabrication and basic metal-smithing through the design and construction of a variety of wearable projects, and make objects that range from the highly functional to the purely expressive. Students will study jewelry and metal-smithing techniques as cutting, forming, joining, molding and surface decorating. Related studies in the classical and contemporary uses of materials and tools, rendering, and small sculpture provide topics for independent research and investigation. Students are expected to keep a sketchbook for homework, develop design ideas, participate in the course blog, share documented work and participate in critiques of their own and historical artwork on the class blog.

SCULPTURE AND 3-D DESIGN

Heterogeneous Class Academic

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 credit

The course will focus on problem solving, idea development, creativity and personal meaning using both traditional and nontraditional three- dimensional materials including found and altered objects, nature and recycled materials. The course emphasizes conceptual reasoning and consideration of material choice, craft, form, space, site, presentation, and context. Historical and contemporary trends, styles and individual artists will be studied for each project. Introduction to basic tools, processes and safety practices will be employed in the creation of sculptural ideas. Student critiques are an essential part of the learning process and are key elements of the course. The class blog will be managed by the instructor; written descriptions of class assignments will be posted, as well as information about artists and art work related to the topics addressed in this class. These discussions should be a source of inspiration and a springboard for your own research and brainstorming processes. Students will be graded on research, development of ideas through the blog and sketchbook, documentation of artwork, reflection and participation.

**BUSINESS**

PERSONAL CAREER PLANNING

Heterogeneous Class Academic

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 credit

What are you going to be when you grow up? Choosing the right career is one of the most important decisions you will make. How do you make the right choice? This course provides an opportunity for students to investigate their own interests and abilities as they prepare for the

world of work in our dynamic global economy. Technology and online activities will be integrated throughout the course to allow students to apply new concepts and skills. Topics include developing an individual career plan, interview skills, teamwork, leadership, developing a positive attitude, thinking skills on the job, time management and much more. These 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills will allow students to make better career choices with the academic foundation to achieve their career and personal goals.

### SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT MARKETING

Heterogeneous Class Academic

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

Do you love sports? Concerts? Red carpet Hollywood glamour? You are not alone! Sports and Entertainment Marketing spending has grown to over \$500 billion in 2011, creating jobs for motivated professionals. The Sports and Entertainment Marketing course will introduce students to basic marketing principles, with a focus on the fast-growing areas of sports and entertainment. Students will learn the history of the industries, recent trends in events and venues, and product and image branding, licensing, and promotion. Through a variety of activities, students will develop 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills such as collaboration, teamwork, and problem-solving. Motivating projects with simulations and hands-on applications at the school store, The Knight Spot, will bring this course alive for students!

## **ENGLISH**

### PLAYWRITING

Honors

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

Playwriting, a half year Honors English class, will help students develop playwriting skills, which include character development, research, dramatic structure, conflict, and resolution. In addition, students will study and analyze both historical and contemporary plays. By the completion of the course, students will have created a 10 minute play that will be directed, performed, and produced by members of the course. Through this course, students will refine their collaborative, analytical, interpretive, and problem-solving skills while deepening their artistic abilities and appreciation of the theatrical arts.

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT SEMINAR IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

AP

Grade 12

Full Year

1

credit

This course is for students who are willing to accept the challenge of introductory college-level work in English. Students will prepare for the AP Exam in English Language and Composition and may be granted college credit for satisfactory performance on the exam. Successful completion of this course will prepare students for the rigors of reading and writing on the college level, no matter what major they choose. This course uses a broad and challenging collection of nonfiction writings as well as visual texts to examine the ways writers use language, style and rhetoric to create meaning. Through close reading and frequent writing, students will develop their ability to analyze text and learn the importance of becoming informed citizens. In creating formal writing, students will work through the process of pre-writing, writing and revision. Readings will include memoirs, essays, and speeches. Grammar, usage, and

mechanics instruction, as well as vocabulary, will be integrated in the context of student writing and in the analysis of written passages.

## **MUSIC**

### HISTORY OF MUSICAL THEATER

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

Heterogeneous Class Academic

.5 credit

This course is a survey of the history of American musical theater, its origins, development and relevance in society. Students will watch a variety of influential musicals and learn about important composers, lyricists, producers, directors and choreographers who have contributed to the development of the musical. The primary focus will be the stage, though the influence and interplay between Broadway and Hollywood will also be discussed.

### SONGWRITING

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

Heterogeneous Class Academic

.5 credit

This course provides an introduction to the basic principles, procedures and techniques of songwriting and composing, including lyrics, melody, and harmony. Students will explore and experiment with a variety of songwriting and compositional strategies in creating their own music. Students will also become familiar with the work of a variety of important songwriters and composers.

### STEEL DRUM BAND

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

Heterogeneous Class Academic

.5 credit

This course is open to all students who are interested in learning about steel drum music, and learning how to play steel drum instruments. The course will focus on basic music reading skills, transcription, and sight-reading. Prior musical experience is encouraged but not required. Students will perform simple songs and calypsos accurately and artistically. Students will have the opportunity to perform songs outside of the class and in public performances. Every year, Music Department ensembles participate in auditions and festivals. Participation in all dress rehearsals and concerts is mandatory.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### UNIFIED PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Academic

Grade 11-12

1 Semester

Heterogeneous Class

.5

credit

This elective course is only available to students who have earned 1 full credit in physical education, fulfilling their graduation requirement. This class will follow the Special Olympics model for physical education emphasizing: cooperation, problem solving, and forming relationships between peers. Student-leaders work and team up with students with disabilities to create a supportive learning environment while engaging in physical education activities. Key focus points will include motor development, exercise science, physical activity, movement & wellness concepts, safety issues, physical and mental fitness. Unified PE encourages growth through interaction with others in individual and team activities and the development of leadership and life skills, along with an appreciation for differences amongst the student body. Students interested in taking this course must be recommended by a