

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellington, Connecticut

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 11, 2016

The Curriculum Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met Friday, November 11, 2016 from 1:03-2:34 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building. Present were: Board of Education members Gary Blanchette, Tracey Kiff-Judson and Kristen Picard-Wambolt. Andrew McNamar was absent. Also present were Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools; Erin McGurk, Director of Educational Services; Neil Rinaldi, Principal, Ellington High School; Michele Cirillo, Curriculum Supervisor; and Wendy Ciarci and Matt DeLassus, EHS Teachers.

Mrs. Ciarci, a high school art teacher, described a proposal for a Mural Painting class. She described the interest that has arisen in mural painting as a result of the very active Mural Club at the high school. This course would give students an opportunity to collaboratively design and create pieces of art, which could be installed in our schools or in other places in the community.

Mr. DeLassus, a high school music teacher, presented a proposal for a Unified Music class. This class, which would mirror the Unified Physical Education course that is currently offered, would be an experiential, inclusive class for students with special needs. Peer mentors would also enroll, allowing students to work in partnerships and to develop supportive relationships.

Mrs. Cirillo presented a number of proposals, including changing the UCONN ECE course in French to an AP course, as we have no faculty members who are currently eligible to teach this as a UCONN course. Another proposal is to create sections of world language instruction (French IA, IB, Spanish IA, IB) to add a second year of foundational language instruction for students who begin a world language at the high school. Students who have taken world language at the middle school, but need additional instruction to master skills and concepts would also be eligible to take the course. Finally, Mrs. Cirillo presented a proposed course in Inquiry and Research, which would be a social studies elective. This course would assist students in developing compelling and researchable questions, and to use evidence with sophistication to write research papers or to create research-based presentations on topics of personal interest.

Mrs. Cirillo updated the committee on work that has been done to strengthen the English curriculum, including the development of curriculum for new courses approved last year. She shared sample documents that highlighted the use of mentor texts and selected whole class texts, as well as allowing for student choice and challenge through appropriate book club selections and differentiated assignments.

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m. The next meeting of the Curriculum Committee is scheduled for Friday, December 9, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Gary Blanchette, Curriculum Committee Chairperson

Proposed New EHS Courses for 2017-18

Board of Education Curriculum Committee November 11, 2016

ADVANCED PLACEMENT FRENCH

AP
1 Credit

The AP French Language and Culture course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP French Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in French is designed for those students with a serious interest in the French language and literature.

The AP French Language and Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions). The course prepares students for taking the AP French exam in May. The prerequisite for this class is French IV Honors.

FRENCH IA

Grades 9-12

Full Year

College Prep 1 Credit

French IA introduces students to the study of French. This course corresponds to the middle school grade 7 French program and is designed to provide students with the materials and classroom atmosphere to develop beginning language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in the target language and better understand his/her own language. The course will emphasize thematic vocabulary, common expressions, and to enable students to converse in everyday situations. The supplemental use of the Bien dit! series and technology reinforces grammatical and pronunciation patterns established in the classroom. The study of French cultures, using DVDs and other realia, is included with language study to make language development as meaningful as possible. Upon successful completion, students can continue to study French by enrolling in French IB the following year.

FRENCH IB

Grades 9-12

Full Year

College Prep 1 Credit

French IB is intended as the continuation of the French 1 course work begun in French 1A. This course corresponds to the middle school grade 8 French program and is designed to provide the student with the materials and classroom atmosphere to develop all language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in the target language, better understand his/her own language, and develop linguistic abilities in subsequent languages. Extensive work is done to promote good oral skills, oral and written comprehension, good pronunciation, and to encourage the use of the target language creatively. The supplemental use of the Bien dit! series and technology reinforces grammatical and pronunciation patterns established in the classroom. The study of French cultures, using DVDs and other realia, is included with language study to make language development as

meaningful as possible. Eighth grade students who need additional time to master the foundational language skills of French 1 may enroll in this course prior to taking French II at the high school.

EXPLORING OUR WORLD THROUGH PERSONALIZED INQUIRY AND RESEARCH

College Prep or Honors

Grade 9-12

1 Semester

.5 credits

In this course, students will apply the Social Studies Inquiry Arc to formulate a research-based project on a historical topic of personal interest. The course will focus on students developing compelling and researchable questions, applying disciplinary tools and concepts, and corroborating and evaluating sources in order to develop greater insight into their topic. Students will learn to use evidence with sophistication in order to write an effective research paper and to create a research-based presentation, as well as to communicate conclusions that will lead to informed, thoughtful action.

MURAL PAINTING

College Prep

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

Mural Painting is an intermediate art course. Drawing or Art Foundations is a prerequisite. Students will develop their ability to perceive, compose and apply new skills in drawings, studies and acrylic murals. Creativity, playfulness and the artistic process are emphasized. Students will learn about the history of mural painting and the artistic process from conception of ideas to the finished product, a school mural. Students will look at, analyze and respond to artwork through critiques and reflections in order to improve their own projects. This is a collaborative team driven class. Students must present their research and mural designs to a committee of faculty members and achieve approval before painting their designs. This class supports and teaches career and life skills such as goal setting, decision making and teamwork. Students will be assessed using the school wide collaboration rubric and the Art Department rubric, Create, Present, Respond. Students may take this class multiple times. Students are expected to keep an organized binder for handouts and a sketchbook for drawings, studies and research. Other requirements include maintaining an art website. Prerequisite: Completion of Art Foundations or Drawing

SPANISH IA

College Prep

Grades 9-12

Full Year

1 Credit

Spanish IA introduces students to the study of Spanish. This course corresponds to the middle school grade 7 Spanish program and is designed to provide the student with the materials and classroom atmosphere to develop basic language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in the target language as well as to better understand his/her own language. The course will emphasize thematic vocabulary, common expressions, and to enable students to converse in everyday situations. The study of Spanish cultures is included with language study to make language development as meaningful as possible. The supplemental use of the *Avancemos* program and on-line text technology reinforces grammatical and pronunciation patterns established in the classroom. Upon successful completion, students can continue to study Spanish by enrolling in Spanish 1B.

SPANISH IB

College Prep

Grades 9-12

Full Year

1 Credit

Spanish IB is intended as the continuation of the Spanish 1 course work begun in Spanish 1A. This course corresponds to the middle school grade 8 Spanish program and is designed to provide the student with the materials and classroom atmosphere to develop all language skills (listening,

speaking, reading, and writing) in the target language, better understand his/her own language, and develop linguistic abilities in subsequent languages. Extensive work is done to promote good oral skills, oral and written comprehension, good pronunciation and to encourage the use of the target language creatively. The supplemental use of the *Avancemos* program and on-line text technology reinforces grammatical and pronunciation patterns established in the classroom. The study of Spanish cultures is included with language study to make language development as meaningful as possible. Eighth grade students who need additional time to master the foundational language skills of Spanish 1 may enroll in this course prior to taking Spanish II at the high school.

UNIFIED MUSIC

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

College Prep

.5 Credit

This is an inclusive, experiential music course specific to students with special needs. General education students will also enroll in the class to act as peer mentors and will gain knowledge and build partnerships with students, while fostering important and meaningful relationships through music. The class will focus on movement to music, singing, theatrics, technology and basic in-class performance coupled with experimentation between different genres and equipment.