



## South St. Paul School Board - Work Session

Monday, November 25, 2024 5:00 PM

CITY HALL, 125 THIRD AVENUE NORTH, South St Paul, Minnesota 55075

---

### I. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

- I.A. New High School Course Proposals (C. Ochocki/A. Winter/B. Zambreno)

### II. SCHOOL BOARD

- II.A. Public Relations and Community Engagement (Board)

II.B. Committee Updates (Board)

- District 917
- AMSD
- Community Education
- Educational Foundation
- Finance, Facilities and Long-Range Planning
- Local Issues
- Policy
- SSP Open Foundation
- Superintendent Executive

- II.C. Other Items Deemed Necessary by the School Board



**SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Agenda Item

**Meeting Date:** November 25, 2024  
**Place on Agenda:** Work Session and Regular Business Meeting  
**Action Requested:** Approval  
**Attachment:** New Course Proposals

<b>Topic: New High School Course Proposals</b>
<b>Presenter(s): Chuck Ochocki</b>
<b>Background:</b> As we continue to grow our Packer Pathways for students at SSP High School, the high school staff were given the opportunity to submit new course proposals. One of the questions we ask the staff to reflect on is “How does this course align with South St Paul Schools' Packer Pathways?” Each of the courses proposed will give our students the opportunity to connect with their pathway and have a new chance to find their passion.
<b>Recommendation:</b> SSP High School administration recommends the Board approve these new courses.
<b>Alternatives:</b> Do not approve and direct SSP High School administration with next steps.

*Passionate Learners Positively Changing Our World*

## **New High School Course Proposals**

### **“Reel” History- History through Film:**

History of Film or "Reel" History is a course that will examine the power of film and how we can learn about historical topics through the media. Students in the course will work together to determine the films that will be viewed from a variety of categories. For each film selected there will be lessons regarding the historical context the film will be about, activities to complete while viewing the film, and culminating activities that will be used to assess students' understanding of the history the film was about.

### **Gym-azing Aerobics & Fitness:**

High school aerobic and weights class that helps students develop muscular endurance and conditioning along with aerobic improvements. These classes can also help students learn to set goals, overcome obstacles, and improve their mental health.

### **Play Production:**

Students in this class will go through the entire play production process from playwriting, play selection, and dramaturgy; casting and rehearsal; technical design and construction; and finally performances on our stage and/or in the community of productions entirely devised by the students. All students will participate in all areas and steps of the theatre making process in order to develop a well-rounded, experience-based understanding of the collaborative art of theatre. Students will also be able to choose particular areas of theatre production to delve deeper into throughout the course.

### **Intermediate Guitar:**

Students in intermediate guitar will continue to develop skills in playing the guitar. Topics of study will include chord harmony, using a capo, accompanying vocalists and other instruments, equipment exploration, and important figures in guitar history.

### **Personal Finance:**

In this course, students develop financial literacy knowledge and skills to prepare them for life after high school. Topics will include establishing a budget, earning a living, saving and investment options (stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.), selecting and using credit options, financial problem solving and decision making, banking organization services options, and managing risk through insurance. Stock market simulations and financial management simulations may be used.

### **Mathematics for the Trades:**

Math for students who are looking to enter the trades, and/or who desire additional Math work but are not I.B. or Concurrent enrollment students. It will not replace a current course, it will fill a gap in our current Career & Technical Education Pathway, and offer an option for students who desire to take more Math courses. It will not replace a current course, it will fill a gap in our current Career & Technical Education Pathway.

### **Careers in Culinary:**

Are you interested in gaining experience in the restaurant industry? In Careers in Culinary students will obtain their ServSafe Manager Certification, explore careers in culinary, investigate how the restaurant industry works, and participate in a culinary internship. This will be the capstone of the culinary program.

### **Careers in Human Development:**

This course is a continuation of Careers in Human Development. Students will continue to participate in an internship related to child and human development. This will be the capstone to the Human Services Pathway.

### **Coding 3-Mobile Apps:**

Mobile applications are becoming increasingly important to our consumption of media, news, social interaction, and learning. In this course, students will learn how to create mobile apps. Students will

design and build applications to run on their own smartphones and will use the latest tools and technologies available for mobile app development. The Mobile Apps course is designed as a one semester course for high school students that have taken our Coding 1 & Coding 2 course, as it builds on the skills we learned using JavaScript, HTML and CSS. Students will learn the foundations of the React Native framework, components, and how to use components to create scalable, custom, and fast mobile applications. Students will also learn about important computer science topics including state changes, using XML and stylesheet objects, mapping through objects, rendering dynamic data, and creating modular app layouts with flex and the Dimensions API.

**Social Media Marketing:**

This course addresses social media as a marketing tool and emphasizes social media messages, coordination of messaging across various social media platforms, and search engine optimization. Students will examine the uses, marketing strategies and data generated by social media marketing. Topics may include, but are not limited to social media knowledge, social media marketing strategies, communication, and ethical responsibilities. Student use of actual social media tools, where allowed, is highly encouraged. Real-world applications in support of school or community groups/events

**TriDistrict CAPS, Cultivating our Future: Natural Resources, Sustainability, & Food Systems:**

This exciting interdisciplinary course dives into the world where food systems, sustainability, natural resources, and chemistry collide. Explore the science behind growing food, managing resources responsibly, and building a thriving community – through the lens of soil, area and water chemistry.



**SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Agenda Item

**Place on Agenda:** Work Session

**Action Requested:** None. Review and Discussion Only

**Attachment:** None.

<b>Topic:</b> Public Relations and Community Engagement
<b>Presenter(s):</b> School Board Members
School Board members will engage in conversation regarding opportunities to partner with the students, staff, and families of South St. Paul Public Schools, as well as the greater South St. Paul community, to continue moving the District’s mission and vision forward.
<b>Recommendation:</b>  N/A
<b>Alternatives:</b>  N/A

*Passionate Learners Positively Changing Our World*



**SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Agenda Item

**Place on Agenda:** Work Session

**Action Requested:** None. Discussion Only.

**Attachment:** None

<b>Topic:</b> Committee Updates
<b>Presenter(s):</b> School Board Members
<b>Background:</b>  School Board members will provide an update for the following committees that they serve on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● District 917</li><li>● AMSD</li><li>● Community Education</li><li>● Educational Foundation</li><li>● Finance, Facilities, and Long-Range Planning</li><li>● Local Issues</li><li>● Policy</li><li>● SSP Open Foundation</li><li>● Superintendent Executive</li></ul>
<b>Recommendation:</b>  N/A
<b>Alternatives:</b>  N/A

*Passionate Learners Positively Changing Our World*