

Curriculum Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 3:00 PM

Remote Session

I. Call to order

II. Approval of May and June 2023 meeting minutes

III. Summer Curriculum Academy and Status of Progress

- Weston Curriculum Framework and Structure
- Introduction of the Curriculum & Instruction Leader Team Members
- New! District Access
- Professional Development Vision and Theme

IV. K-2 Literacy Implementation Update

- American Reading Company (ARC)
- DIBELS8 Assessment
- Parent Information

V. New to Weston Teacher Support Program

- Collaborative effort with HR
- Support those in the TEAM Program
- Monthly theme-based meetings to support those new to Weston's expectations

VI. On-going collaboraton adn partnership with Weston Parks and Rec/Youth Services

- Summer & after-school programming (STEM)
 - Junior Flight School-registration began on Sep. 7

VII. Next Meeting Topics:

- Program of Studies - WHS

VIII. Adjournment

Curriculum Committee Meeting

June 13, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Via Google Meet

Present Committee Members:

Bernadette Kingsley (Chairperson), Chad Hoepfner, David Felton

Present Administration:

Lisa Barbiero, Superintendent; Tina Henckel, Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent; Tracy Edwards, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Daniel DiVito, Director of Technology & Digital Learning; Phillip Cross, Director of Finance; Meghan Ward, WHS Principal; Juliane Givoni, WHS Assistant Principal; Dan Doak, WMS Principal; Pattie Falber, WIS Principal; Laura Kaddis, HES Principal; Patty Powers, K-12 Health and PE CIL; Alex Bluestein, 3-5 ELA and Social Studies CIL; Andrea Noble, 3-5 ELA and Social Studies CIL; Jessica DiBuono, 6-12 ELA CIL; Kelly DelVecchio, K-2 Math CIL; Carolyn Vinton, 3-5 Math and K-5 Science CIL; Janine Russo, 6-12 Math CIL; Nicholas Torres, 6-12 Social Studies CIL; Jamie Charles, 6-12 Science and Technology CIL; Kate O'Keefe, K-12 Visual Arts CIL; Elizabeth Morris, K-12 Performing Arts CIL; Mercedes Fernandes, K-12 World Language CIL; Meredith Starzyk, WHS Director of Student Counseling

Members of the Public:

Steven Ezzes, Peter Gordon

1. Call to Order

The meeting called to order at 3:03 p.m.

2. Approval of May 2023 minutes

In order to save time, the approval of the May minutes was moved to the September meeting.

3. Presentation of the Academic Year in Review

Discussion:

Dr. Henckel stated the purpose of the presentation. She reviewed the organization of the presentation as a K-12 partnership.

Patty Powers presented on the Health and Physical Education curriculum. She commented that the reinforcement of DBT skills in school keeps students invested in using it in other areas of their lives.

Meredith Starzyk presented on school counseling. She spoke on the partnership with Challenge Success for students' success after high school and post-secondary planning.

Alex Bluestein highlighted the State legislation of literacy curricula and assessment that is more in line with the science of reading. She spoke on the formation of the District Literacy Committee and its objectives for the 2023-23 school year and beyond.

Jessica DiBuono presented English Language Arts for grades 6-12. She highlighted the work of the District Literacy Committee and spoke on the refinements of K-12 assessments for improved vertical alignment and implementation of a broader variety of instructional support.

Andrea Noble also spoke on the work they did as a district this year to ensure K-12 vertical alignment. She also spoke on the steps taken this year to prepare for the implementation of the new K-2 reading and writing curriculum.

Nick Torres presented on grade 6-12 social studies and the focus areas for the 2022-23 school year. Andrea Noble presented on grade K-5 social studies and highlighted some of the Historical Society's hands-on learning experiences for K-5. She spoke of the new social studies frameworks that will guide and audit the district's social studies curriculum revision. Alex Bluestein commented on cross-curricular work as it relates to the next iteration of the social studies curriculum.

Carolyn Vinton presented on mathematics. She reported that the focus was on improving math capacity using student-centered learning strategies. She also spoke on the Tri-State Consortium visit, which focused on assessing how effectively our student-centered learning program works and how the district is doing in ensuring all students have access to high-quality instruction.

Kelly Delvecchio presented on K-2 mathematics. She spoke on the full implementation of the new kindergarten math program, *Developing Roots*, which is a completely student-centered program. She also spoke on the return of parent math workshops focusing on parent understanding of elementary school mathematics.

Janine Russo presented on grade 6-12 mathematics. She highlighted the new mathematics workshop courses this year designed for hands-on learning for grades 6-8. She reported that teachers also piloted *Thinking Classrooms* strategies and grades 6-9 piloted new curricular resources. She spoke on the need to reflect and revise the instructional supports to meet the needs of all students, as recommended by the Tri-State Consortium.

Carolyn Vinton and Jamie Charles presented on K-12 science. They highlighted the focus on increasing student capacity in science and engineering practices for all students K-12. Ms. Charles also presented on technology education K-12.

Liz Morris presented on K-12 performing arts. She highlighted the return to full ensemble performances. Kate O'Keefe presented K-12 visual arts. Highlights included the return to full in-person art show as well as the need for improved vertical alignment between the middle and high school.

Dr. Henckel presented on K-12 world language she highlighted the areas of focus and celebration for the department as well as areas of in need of refinement.

Dr. Henckel also spoke on the curriculum development work that will be taking place over the summer in seven content areas to help prepare for the upcoming school year.

Dr. Kingsley asked follow up questions to the presenters on where they feel the district is in terms of post-pandemic education. She also asked about the impacts that artificial intelligence has on education and whether the district has systems in place to mitigate the dangers as they come up as well as prepare

for new careers that will come out of this new technology.

Mr. Felton inquired about the types of Project Lead the Way courses that are offered at Weston High School as well as the infrastructure or equipment utilized by these courses. Mr. Felton also asked the presenters how they measure the outcome on the goals and changes proposed year to year.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Curiano

DRAFT

Curriculum Committee Meeting

May 8, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Via Google Meet

Present Committee Members:

Bernadette Kingsley (Chairperson), Chad Hoepfner, David Felton

Present Administration:

Tina Henckel, Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent; Meghan Ward, WHS Principal; Matt Filip, WHS Assistant Principal; Dan Doak, WMS Principal; Dru Walters, WMS Assistant Principal; Pattie Falber, WIS Principal

1. Call to Order

The meeting called to order at 3:03 p.m.

Discussion:

Dr. Henckel reviewed the general purpose of the Curriculum Committee meetings and reviewed the virtual meeting norms.

2. Approval of April 2023 minutes

Motion Passed: Move that the Curriculum Committee approve the April 2023 meeting minutes. This motion made by Chad Hoepfner and seconded by Bernie Kingsley.

3 Yeas – 0 Nays

3. Curriculum and Instruction Updates

Discussion:

- Literacy
 - Dr. Henckel reported that the District has officially adopted the American Reading Company as their core curricular literacy program.
 - She is working with the company to scaffold the roll-in of the program to allow proper time for teacher professional development. The materials will be delivered on a rolling basis as well.
 - The State also mandated districts work with recommended assessment screening tools for grades K-3. Weston has been working with the recommended tool (DIBELS) and Dr. Henckel is working with a company to train the elementary teachers in the DIBELS 8th edition online protocol. DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) is a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of literacy skills.
- Math
 - Dr. Henckel stated that the Tri-State visit report has been received by the District. It will be reviewed with all of the schools and presented at a later date.

- Assessment
 - Dr. Henckel reported that the state Smarter Balanced (SBAC) and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) assessments are underway. The window for testing will end in the beginning of June.
- Summer '23 Weston Youth Services
 - There are two new summer programs being offered this summer. Dr. Henckel has been working collaboratively with Weston Youth Services to bring STEM-related offerings to middle school-aged students: Junior Flight School and a STEM coding program using Society Craft and Minecraft.

4. Presentation on District Attendance Process, Protocols and Data

Discussion:

Dr. Henckel gave a presentation on the CT State Next Gen Accountability System focusing on chronic absenteeism.

- There are 12 broad indicators on the report that look at schools holistically, with some indicators carrying more weight than others. Each district, as well as each school, receive a score. The scores include both a performance index and an accountability index.
- Weston as a district has done a lot of work with the schools this year on how our absenteeism is reported. They have met as a committee to review standards, consistency, etc.
- Dr. Henckel has edited and updated district attendance policies to bring them in alignment with Shipman & Goodman and neighboring districts.
- The Attendance Committee focused on being more proactive with families and discussed supports they can offer families on chronic tardiness and absenteeism. The committee will meet in the summer to analyze the 2022-23 data.
- Dr. Henckel explained that although absenteeism is only one part of the 12 indicators, it can be the root cause of points lost on other indicators.

5. Next Meeting Agenda Items

- Academic year in review presentation

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Curiano



Welcome Back!

BOE Curriculum Subcommittee - September 12 2023

Dr. Tina Henckel
Assistant Superintendent

Agenda

- What occurred this summer related to the Weston curriculum?
- What will we be focusing on this school year during professional development days?
- How is the implementation of our new K-2 literacy program and assessment going?
- How will we be supporting our staff that are new to Weston?
- What opportunities for students are continuing to explore with our community partners?



What occurred this summer related to the Weston curriculum?

Summer Curriculum Academy ('23)

- June 21 Kickoff: Full team training grounded in research
 - Understanding by Design (Grant Wiggins & Jay McTighe)
 - Universal Design for Learning (Why, What, How)
 - Introduction of new Weston Curriculum Framework using Weston Curriculum Templates
- June 21- June 27
 - Allocation of days range from one to five full days per team
- Who is working and how will they be organized?
 - Approximately 45 teachers
 - 13 different teams across K-12
 - 7 different content areas
- **Targeted curriculum-based** tasks to be completed per team
 - K-12 Scope and Sequence
 - Pacing Guide per grade
 - Unit 1 Planner and beyond



Weston's Teaching and Learning Team

Humanities

- Andrea Noble K-2 English Language Arts and Social Studies
- Alex Bluestein 3-5 English Language Arts and Social Studies
- Dr. Jessica DiBuono 6-12 English Language Arts
- Nicholas Torres 6-12 Social Studies

STEM

- Kelly DelVecchio K-2 Mathematics and Science
- Erin Barlow 3-5 Mathematics and Science
- Riley Rapoport 6-12 Mathematics
- Beth Lancaster 6-12 Science and Technology

Specialists

- Mercedes Fernandes K-12 World Language
- Kate O'Keefe K-12 Visual Arts
- Liz Morris K-12 Music
- MaryFaith Blank K-12 Physical Education and Health
- Meredith Starzyk 9-12 Director of School Counseling



Building a Shared Instructional Vision across WPS

What is it?

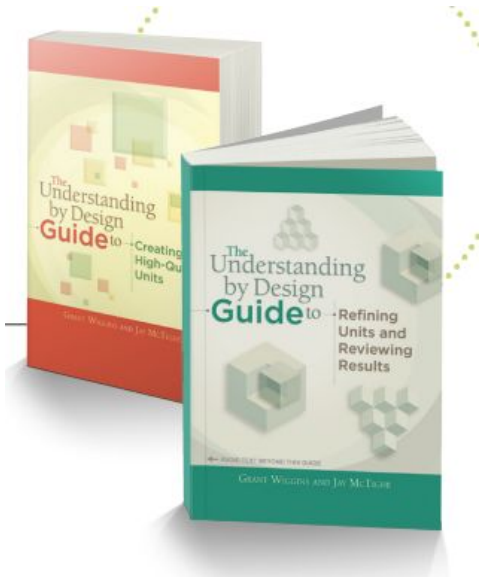
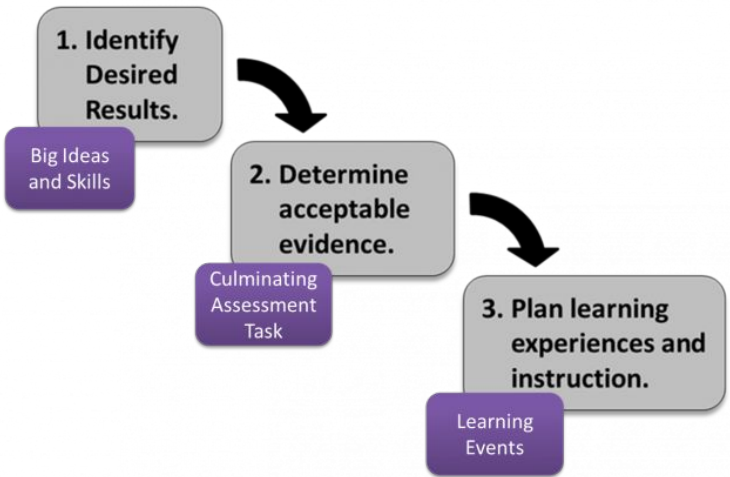
A guaranteed and viable curriculum is a construct that articulates how each student will receive a comprehensive, equitable, rigorous, and standards-based education, across all grade levels, in all subject areas so that all students have an equitable opportunity to learn.

Why is it important?

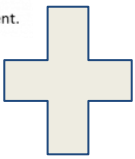
According to Marzano's work (2003), a guaranteed and viable curriculum is ***“the single most important initiative a school or district can engage in to raise student achievement.”***

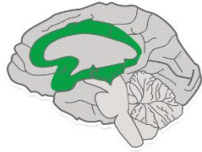
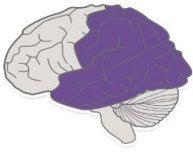
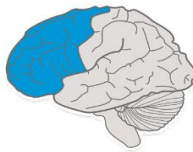
Weston's Curriculum Design Frameworks: UDL & UbD

Backward Design

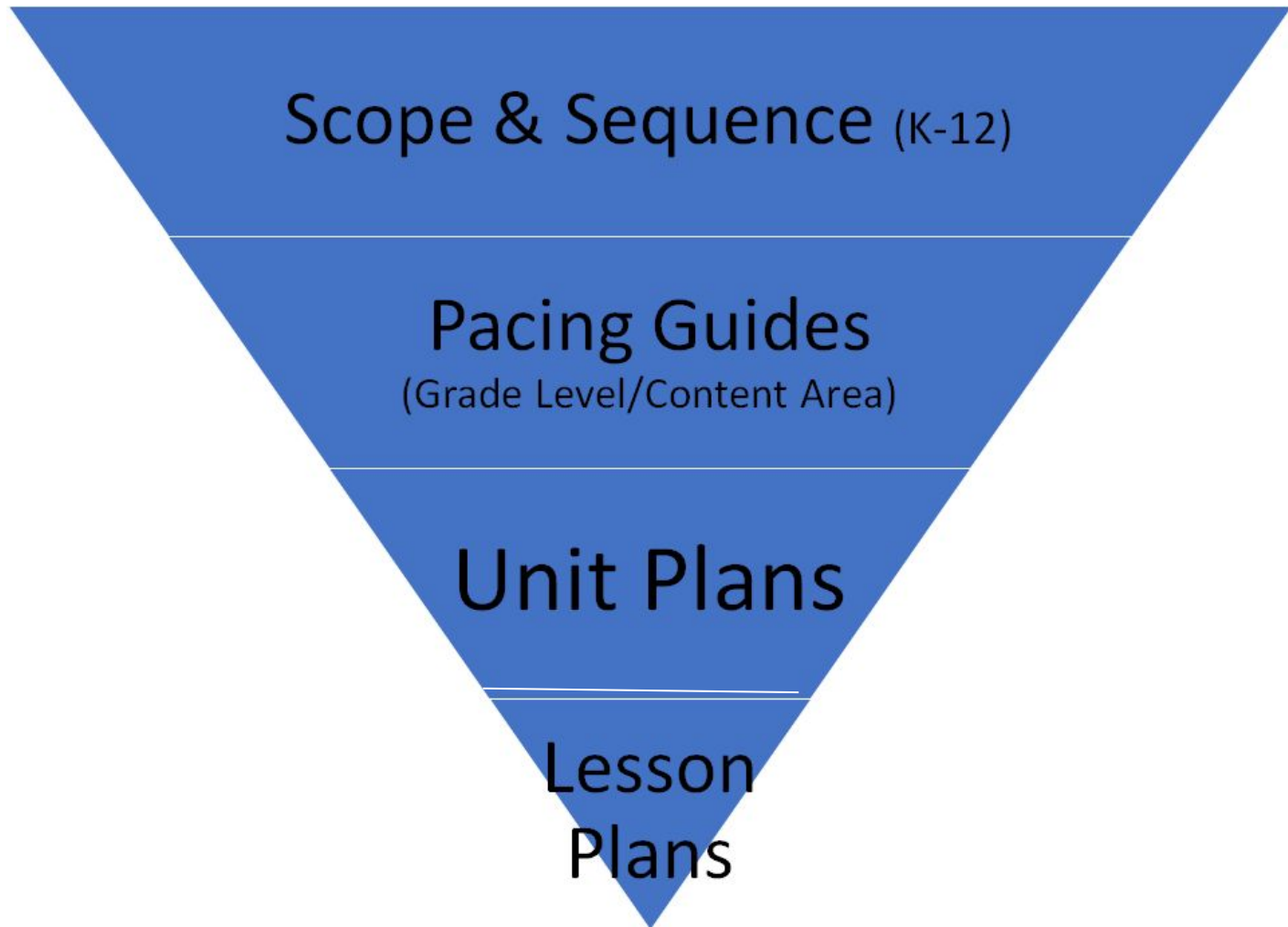


Wiggins, G. P., & McTighe, J. (2005). *Understanding by design*. Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development.



<p>AFFECTIVE NETWORKS: THE WHY OF LEARNING</p>  <p>Engagement</p> <p>For purposeful, motivated learners, stimulate interest and motivation for learning.</p> <p>Explore Engagement</p>	<p>RECOGNITION NETWORKS: THE WHAT OF LEARNING</p>  <p>Representation</p> <p>For resourceful, knowledgeable learners, present information and content in different ways.</p> <p>Explore Representation</p>	<p>STRATEGIC NETWORKS: THE HOW OF LEARNING</p>  <p>Action & Expression</p> <p>For strategic, goal-directed learners, differentiate the ways that students can express what they know.</p> <p>Explore Action & Expression</p>
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How do we design and build our Curriculum in Weston?

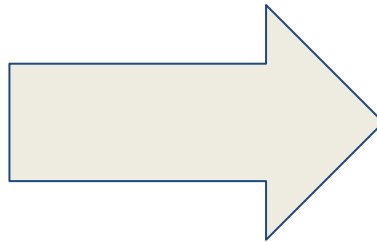


Coherence and Continuity: Access for Teachers and Administrators

- WPS Curriculum Framework is now housed in a Google Drive
- Teachers have access to all curriculum through:
 - ClassLink
 - Weston Teaching and Learning Intranet



Login



Professional Development Focus

Vision: The Weston Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC), which includes school and district leaders and staff, aims to guide the professional growth of all Weston educators as they engage in professional learning and collaboration to deepen their expertise and help all students achieve high standards of learning and development.

The Weston Public Schools seeks to implement a long-term professional development plan centered around the theme of 'Building Connections and a Sense of Belonging.' This theme is linked through three interconnected and purposeful descriptors.

Instructional Focus: The focus of the Weston Public Schools staff is to foster connections among students, staff, and community stakeholders so that all members of the WPS community feel welcome and valued.

- **THEME: Building Connections and a Sense of Belonging**

As a result of professional development experiences, staff will be able to:

- Create learning environments that encourage educational risk-taking and demonstrate how efforts and positive influences of the staff have a direct impact on a student's success in school.
- Design engaging learning activities through planning and implementation that foster positive relationships among students, staff, and families. The design of such learning is focused on engagement, representation, action, and expression.
- Evaluate assessment and instructional practices to ensure we are meeting the needs of all learners.

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- August: Full Day Threat Assessment Training with Megan Eliot
- August: Three day administrative retreat
- August: Cognitive Coaching Overview for ALL CILs and administrators
- August: All staff trained on the new Weston curriculum framework and access; instructional practices, culture and climate; ARC
- October: Fall data focus and goal setting

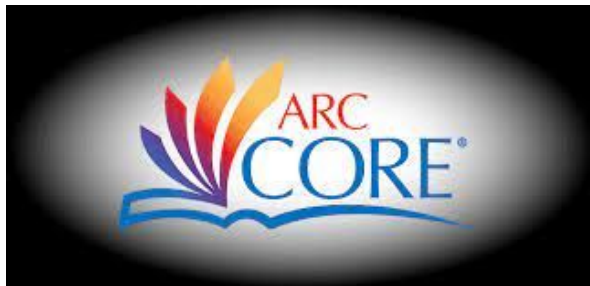
K-2 Literacy Update: Core and Assessment

June, 23: DIBELS8 Assessment Training for all K-2 Staff



Full Day On-Site All K-2 Staff with Weston's Personalized Coach/Trainer from ARC

- August 25: Overview and onboarding
- September 14: Classroom visits, Modeling, and Grade Level Planning



Professional Learning Plan			
Project Goal	Drivers	Key Metrics	
	Reading Culture IRLA Expert Coaching Standards-Based Instruction	Reader Engagement (% of students on target for reader engagement) Levels Accuracy (% of students with accurate IRLA levels) Conference Activity (% of students who've had a conference within 24 days)	
		Effective Balanced Literacy Instruction	
Visit	Focus of Visit	Key Metrics	Pacing
Visit 1	Full Day Workshop: Teacher Efficacy & Reading Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate Avid Reading Community Facilitate common planning for Literacy Lab Launch 	Reader/Writer Engagement Scale	Before Day 1
Visit 2	Two 60-minute Classroom Fishbowl: Initiate Academic Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build upon Reading Culture Establish rituals and routines of the Integrated Literacy Block Model literacy block lessons 1:1 Supports in Classroom Visits: IRLA/ENIL Conferences Modeling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct initial IRLA/ENIL reading levels Introduce Power Goals; every conference ends with a Power Goal (at least) tied to Reader Engagement or Range of Reading. 	Reader/Writer Engagement Scale Levels confirmed and entered into SchoolPace by _____.	Lit Lab: Week 2-4
Visit 3	Fishbowl or PLCs: Model Power Goal Conferences/Reading Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use entry requirements as a source for Power Goals Decide systems for home and school Reading Practice 1:1 Supports in Classroom Visits: IRLA/ENIL Conferences Modeling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support initial IRLA/ENIL reading levels Confirm Power Goals – Every conference ends with a Power Goal (at least) tied to high leverage skill based on level and student need. 	Power Goals identified and entered into SchoolPace by _____. In school Reading Practice to begin _____. At home Reading Practice to be _____.	Lit Lab: Week 4-5

NEW! to Weston Teacher Networking Group

- Goal: To develop ongoing support and guidance to members of our staff that are new to Weston and/or new to the profession.
- This networking and support plan is lead in collaboration with the Human Resources Department
- 16 New! to Weston Teachers; 2 are part of the TEAM program

THEME	Date/Time/Location
Weston Teacher Evaluation Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of WPS Plan• TalentEd Login & Navigation• Goal Setting and Unit Plan Samples	Sept 11 3:00-4:00 WIS 118
TEAM Training and Support <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview• Schedule of Expectations	October
PPS	November
Technology	TBD
Security	TBD
Mid-Year Check-in & reflection	January



After School Junior Flight School

Junior Flight School

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/search?q=junior%20flight%20school>



JUNIOR FLIGHT SCHOOL

PILOT FLIGHT SIMULATORS • FLY DRONES • EXPLORE AVIATION



Junior Flight School (JFS) - Fly simulators, drones, and let your dreams take flight! In this exciting aviation exploration laboratory, possibilities are bound only by imagination. Designed and delivered by Milestone C - JFS is a groundbreaking **after-school program** designed as a **hands-on aerospace experience** for middle school students. Our unique **STEM** curriculum offers applied engineering and aviation skills as an **introduction to flight, drones and aerospace careers**. This **program** was created by leaders at Fortune 500 aerospace corporations and veteran aviators allows students to learn by doing and sparks early interest & **motivation in STEM**

Our streamlined, high-impact curriculum takes a **multi-disciplinary** approach to shaping future STEM leaders and developing the following skills in an engaging laboratory environment:

- ✓ PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT & CONFIDENCE
- ✓ EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP & TEAMWORK
- ✓ COMMUNICATION & CONFLICT RESOLUTION
- ✓ PUBLIC SPEAKING & FORMAL PRESENTATION
- ✓ ANALYTICAL THINKING & TASK MANAGEMENT
- ✓ ADDITIONAL SKILLS & DECISION MAKING

MISSION

"**Motivate** and **empower** future STEM **leaders** to make **educated career and college decisions.**"

VISION



A wooden-framed chalkboard with the words "Thank You" written in white, serif font. The chalkboard is placed on a rustic wooden surface. To the left, a portion of a red rotary telephone is visible. To the right, a portion of a typewriter is visible. A green leaf is in the top right corner.

Thank
You