

Curriculum Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 3:00 PM

Remote Session

I. Call to order

II. Approval of September 2023 meeting minutes

III. Overnight field trip approval:

- Nashville, TN - Music Department 4-day, 3-night trip

IV. Presentation from Weston High School on their updates to the Program of Studies for the 2024-2025 School Year

V. Overview of the Teacher Leader Fellowship academy (TLFA) sponsored by the Weston Education Foundation (WEF)

- TLFA Fact Sheet
- Theme for 23-24

VI. Update regarding the district's shift to digital assessment distribution

VII. Review and communication of New Kindergarten School Year Start Law

VIII. Link to Pupil Personnel Services Website to locate the DBT parent presentation on October 4, 2023

IX. Information on literacy and technology goals

- K-2 lens

X. Adjournment

Curriculum Committee Meeting

September 13, 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 Conetta, WHS Principal; Laura Kaddis, HES Principal; Andrea Noble, CIL K-2 ELA and Social Studies; Kelly DeVecchio, CIL, K-2 Math and Science; Alex Bluestein, CIL 3-5 ELA and Social Studies; Erin Barlow, CIL, 3-5 Math and Science; Jessica DiBuono; CIL, 6-12 ELA; Nick Torres, CIL, 6-12 Social Studies; Beth Lancaster, CIL 6-12 Science & Technology; Riley Rapoport, CIL, 6-12 Math; Mercedes Fernandes, CIL, K-12 World Language; MaryFaith Blank, CIL, K-12 Health & PE; Elizabeth Morris, CIL, K-12 Performing Arts, Kate O'Keefe, CIL, K-12 Visual Arts

Members of the Public:

Kerry Sheffield

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 May and June 2023 meeting minutes. This motion made by David Felton and seconded by Chad Hoepfner.

3 Yeas – 0 Nays

3. Summer Curriculum Academy and Status of Progress

Discussion:

- Dr. Henckel introduced the 12 Curriculum and Instruction Leaders to the Committee.
- She discussed the overall goals of the Summer Curriculum Academy and described the curriculum development process including the curriculum design utilized by the Weston School District.
- The results of the work is to ensure that students receive a rigorous, high quality and comprehensive standards-based education across all levels and in all subject areas.
- She also spoke on the professional development focus for the year.
- Dr. Kingsley asked about standardized outcome rubrics across the district. She also asked about

presenting some of the culminating student work to the public as a complement to presenting standardized test scores.

4. K-2 Literacy Implementation Update

Discussion:

- CIL Andrea Noble spoke on the preparation and implementation of the newly adopted K-2 literacy program, ARC (American Reading Company).
- She spoke on the parent communications on how to support their child at home and spoke on the roll out of materials.
- Dr. Henckel commended Ms. Noble on taking the lead on the intensive work in coordinating and communicating the roll out of this new program with the entire K-2 team.

5. New to Weston Teacher Support Program

Discussion:

- Dr. Henckel spoke on a newly formed networking group to support the 16 new teachers to the district. This is an optional monthly support group meeting. Each month will focus on a different theme/topic. She also mentioned the mentor support for beginning teachers through the TEAM program.
- Committee members suggested having Board members come to one of the monthly meetings to confirm their support.

6. On-going Collaboration and Partnership with Weston Parks and Rec/Youth Services

Discussion:

- This past spring Dr. Henckel explored some possible summer programs in partnership with Weston Youth Services and Parks and Rec. They explored offering a Junior Flight School, as well as a gaming and coding program for middle school students. Although there were not enough students who signed up in order to run the program, Dr. Henckel continues to work with the Town to work on offerings for next summer.
- Junior Flight School will run as an after school program this fall. This will be coordinated through Weston Youth Services.

7. Next meeting Topics

Discussion:

- In the October meeting, there will be a conversation on the WHS Program of Studies as well as an overview of the Teacher Leader Fellowship Academy supported by a Weston Education Foundation (WEF) grant.
- Dr. Kingsley suggested future discussion on these topics: student support at transition grades, formalized metrics on district mental health as well as data from the curriculum department to inform building configuration.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Curiano

DRAFT

Academic and Performance Travel

Specializing in Student Travel

September 14, 2023

Weston High School
115 School Road
Weston, CT 06883

2023-2024 Nashville Trip

Exact Date: February 29- March 3, 2024

Thurs., Feb. 29

ARRIVAL DAY/Nashville Discovery

Morning Arrival

Depart for Nashville, TN

Arrive Nashville, TN and Meet **Academic and Performance Travel Rep.**

Sightseeing of Nashville, TN. Long before Nashville got its name, it was a promised land for pioneers and idealists of varying genre. A place for talented, hard-working, passionate folks to stake their fortunes not only in music and the arts, but medicine, high tech, academia and even candy. Explore some fantastic photo opportunities at the Parthenon, Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park, Riverfront Park, Nissan Stadium, and the John Siegenthaler Pedestrian Bridge.

Lunch on Own

Transfer to Local High School

Exchange Concert Groups will rehearse and perform with other high school students. This is a great way for the students to see how other groups practice and perform.

Transfer to Hotel Check-In **Gaylord Opryland Hotel**

Dinner Included (\$30 budgeted)

Fri., March 1

Nashville Discovery

8:00 a.m.

Breakfast Included at Hotel

9:00 a.m.

Transfer to Vanderbilt University

Vanderbilt University (informally Vandy) is a private University in Nashville, Tennessee. Founded in 1873, it was named in honor of shipping and rail magnate **Cornelius Vanderbilt**, who provided the school its initial \$1 million endowment despite having never been to the South. Programs are offered through the College of Arts and Science, the School of Engineering, the Peabody College and the Blair School of Music.

Clinics at Vanderbilt University. Groups will rehearse with a Vanderbilt University music director and learn about what it takes to perform at the college level.

Lunch on Own

12:45 p.m.

Campus Tour of Vanderbilt University. Students will meet with a Vanderbilt University admissions officer and then take a tour of the University.

2:30 p.m.

Transfer to the Country Music Hall of Fame

The **Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum** is the definitive home of America's music, safeguarding more than 2.5 million priceless artifacts, including countless recordings and photographs, numerous costumes, musical instruments and more.

Walk across the street to the **Music City Walk of Fame**

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Fri., March 1

Nashville Discovery

Explore **Music City Walk of Fame**

The **Music City Walk of Fame** on Nashville's **Music Mile** is a landmark tribute to those from all genres of music who have contributed to the world through song or other industry collaboration and made a significant contribution to the **music** industry with connection to **Music City**.

4:00 p.m.

Transfer to the **Grand Ole Opry House for Back Stage Tour**

There's nothing like a backstage tour of the **Grand Ole Opry House**; it's a must-see for everyone in Music City! Walk in the footsteps of country's music superstars and get an exclusive look at what happens behind the scenes of the show that made country music famous! Your knowledgeable guide will share stories about the Opry and country music great, past and present- from Minnie Pearl to Carrie Underwood, you might say-show you photos from the Opry's biggest moments in history, and take you to the artist entrance where legends, new artists, and superstars alike walk into the Opry House on the night of an Opry show. You may even get the chance to step on stage and into the famed wooden circle as generations of artists have done.

5:00 p.m.

Walk to Hotel

Prepare for Evening Activity

Dinner Included (\$30 Budgeted)

6:30 p.m.

Walk to the **Grand Ole Opry**

7:00 p.m.

Grand Ole Opry Show

The Grand Ole Opry House is an iconic and legendary country-music stage and concert hall located in the vibrant city of Nashville, Tennessee. With weekly country music performances, the Grand Ole Opry House hosts notable and up and coming artists and bands, both local, national, and international. The Grand Ole Opry House is the ultimate music venue in the city of Nashville, Tennessee. No visit to Nashville is complete without catching a show at the Grand Ole Opry House!

9:00 p.m.

Walk to Hotel

Sat., March 2

Nashville Discovery

8:00 a.m.

Breakfast Included at Hotel

9:30 a.m.

Transfer to the **Ryman Auditorium**

Tour the **Ryman Auditorium**. You'll take a self-guided tour of the Ryman Auditorium, a National Historic Landmark and must see for anyone visiting Nashville. Most famous as the home of the Grand Ole Opry from 1943-1974, its history as Nashville's premier theater and central gathering place started even before construction was complete in 1892.

Lunch on Own

1:00 p.m.

Transfer to **RCA Studio B**

Arrive at **RCA Studio B** Load in of instruments

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Sat., March 2

Nashville Discovery

1:30 p.m.

Guided tour of RCA Studio B

Take a guided tour of RCA Studio B. Historic RCA Studio B is one of the world's most important and successful recording studios. More than 35,000 songs were brought to life by the Studio B magic, including more than 1,000 American hits, 40 million-selling singles, and over 200 Elvis Presley recordings (by far more than any other studio). Step into the house of the hit makers and discover the legend of this Music Row landmark.

Recording Session at RCA Studio B

3:00 p.m.

Transfer to Hotel

Change and Prepare for Nighttime Activities

5:30 p.m.

Transfer to the Nashville's Honky Tonk District

Experience live music on the streets of Nashville

6:45 p.m.

Walk to the **Ole Red Restaurant**

Dinner Included at Ole Red We are friendly for groups of all ages. Here there's a strict no-holds-barred-policy, where you have permission to forget the world outside and get lost —IN the music, ON the dance floor, or WITH the taste of our award-winning BBQ. Here you'll become part of the show, not just part of the audience. Because Here there's little distinction between dance floor and stage door. We're one of those places where you're encouraged to dance the line, not walk it. Here you're unleashed!

9:30 p.m.

Transfer to Hotel

Sun., March 3

Nashville Discovery/Departure Day

7:00 a.m.

Breakfast Included at Hotel

Load Luggage

Transfer to **The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson**

Explore the **The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson**

This is one of the largest and most visited presidential homes in the United States, and recently named the #1 historic house in Tennessee. Today, The Hermitage is a 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark with over 30 historic buildings, that welcomes some 200,000 annual visitors, including 30,000 schoolchildren, from all 50 states and many foreign countries. Visit Andrew Jackson's Hermitage to witness "The Duel: The Art of the Southern Gentleman." This 30-minute visitor experience will answer questions about dueling followed by an ACTUAL demonstration by our historic re-enactors. "The Duel" takes place every Thursday through Sunday throughout the day, free with paid admission.

Lunch on Own

Transfer to Airport

Flight Departs for Home

Please Note: Some changes may occur in the itinerary due to crowd flow, group size, weather, traffic, parks hours, availability and scheduling.

Academic and Performance Travel

Specializing in Student Travel

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Listed above is the customized program designed for **the Weston High School Music Department** by Academic and Performance Travel. The following is a summary of what is included in the program:

- Round-trip transportation from Weston H.S. to Airport and back.
- Round-trip Airfare
- Daily round-trip transfers while on trip to all scheduled activities on itinerary.
- Meals as noted on above itinerary
- 3 nights lodging at OPRYLAND Hotel
- Private Nighttime Hall Monitor for group
- All admissions to attractions, gratuities and programs as noted on itinerary.
- Professional tour director assigned specifically to the group
- Nashville Tour T-shirt
- Rental cost will be covered for (approx. 11-14 large instruments)
- 24-hour Experienced Academic and Performance Travel Staff accessibility.
- Students will be in Quad Occupancy
- Promotional Materials and Application Forms.

~~*\$1175- \$1925 Per Student (Quad Occupancy)~~

***1775- \$2075 Per Student (Double Occupancy)**

***Airfare is budgeted in the price above at \$300.00-\$600.00 per person**

The initial deposit will be \$ 250.00. Please see attached enrollment application for cancellation policy. All participants must be paid in full **60** days prior to travel date or you will be canceled from the program. Please see attached application for details.

Please contact your school's Music Director with any questions you have about the trip.

Sincerely,
Academic and Performance Travel

WHS Music Field Trip



- Nashville, TN
- February 29 - March 3, 2024
- Performance Exchange with a Nashville High School
- Clinic at Vanderbilt University
- Recording session at RCA Studio B
- Grand Ole Opry, Ryman Auditorium, Country Music Hall of Fame
- Tour of Andrew Jackson's Estate



Addition of AP Physics II



- Incorporates additional topics
- 1.0 Credit Course
- Sunsetting Physics I - Calculus Based
- Continue to Offer AP Calculus
- Sequences:
 - Honors Physics, AP Physics I, AP Physics II
 - Honors Physics, AP Physics II
- Continued access to students wishing to take AP Physics I-C test



Addition of Digital Electronics (PLTW)



- More hands on course
- Sunset Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM)
- More relevant to interests of our students
 - Asked for feedback from students who had taken CIM
 - More transferable skills to their post-secondary studies



Addition of Wellness Seminar



- Focus on Dialectical Behavior Therapy - Skills in Schools
- More focused and comprehensive instruction in DBT Principles
- Enrollment: 12 Students
- More formalized, credit bearing group
- Follow specific curriculum
- Taught by school social worker, psychologist or other appropriate PPS staff member



New Entry Age for Kindergarten

Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, children need to turn 5 years old on or before September 1 in order to be automatically eligible for kindergarten. This is a change from the current kindergarten cutoff date of January 1.

KEY POINTS

- Children entering kindergarten in the 2023-2024 school year must turn 5 on or before January 1, 2024
- To start kindergarten in the **2024-25 school year**, however, your child must turn 5 on or before **September 1, 2024**.
- If your child turns 5 on September 2, 2024, through September 1, 2025, they will now enter kindergarten in the 2025-26 school year.

The following questions and answers are intended to address and respond to questions you may have regarding the new entry date for kindergarten.

What is the new entry date for kindergarten?

For the 2023-2024 school year there is no change to the entry date	Children must be 5 on or before January 1, 2024 in order to enter kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year.
For the 2024-25 school year and all following years	Children must turn 5 on or before September 1 to enter kindergarten for any given school year.

Are there any exceptions to this change?

Yes. If your child does not meet the new entry cutoff date, they may still be admitted into kindergarten upon (1) a written request from the parent or guardian, and (2) an assessment completed by the school that determines admitting the child to kindergarten would be developmentally appropriate.

What if my child is receiving special education services?

If your child receives special education services and does not meet the new entry cutoff date, your child's planning and placement team (PPT) will review/revise your child's individualized education program (IEP) to meet your child's needs during the additional year of preschool. **Please note:** Parents may submit a written request for their child to be admitted into kindergarten if they do not meet the new entry cutoff date. The school will complete an assessment to determine whether admitting the child to kindergarten would be developmentally appropriate.

My child was born between September 2 and January 1, and I was planning to send them to kindergarten when they were eligible to attend. What can I do now that the entry date has changed?

- If your child attends preschool, communicate with the program about your family's situation and how they will continue to support your child's development.
- If your child is not attending an early care and education program, consider how a preschool experience might support them for the year(s) prior to kindergarten entry. You can find information about child care by talking with other families, searching online, or [use the 2-1-1 Child Care online search tool](#).
- Seek out possible supports for child care expenses, such as Care 4 Kids, state-funded preschool opportunities, public school preschool programs, or Head Start. To find out about possible low-cost programs and Care4Kids financial assistance, [use the 2-1-1 Child Care online search tool](#) or call (800) 505-1000
- If you believe that it is developmentally appropriate for your child to enter kindergarten., communicate with your elementary school to request an assessment for admitting your child to kindergarten.

How can I support my child's learning and development before the transition to kindergarten?

- You can support learning throughout the day by sharing new words, reading with your child, asking questions, and playing.
- Begin planning how and when you will talk with your child about their transition to kindergarten to ensure a positive experience.
- Check out the [Hello Kindergarten!](#) brochure for more ideas on supporting your child across different areas of learning.

How was this change made?

In 2023, the Connecticut Legislature changed how old a child must be to start kindergarten. Public Act 23-208, Section 1(a) changed the birth date cutoff date from January 1 of any given school year to September 1 of any given school year.

Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

Reach out to your home school district to discuss the process for registration and placement in kindergarten. You can search for your local schools and find contact information on the [Find Contacts](#) website.

Hurlbutt Elementary School



Laura Kaddis, Principal
9 School Road
Weston, Connecticut 06883

October 6, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Many of you are aware that the State of Connecticut has changed the age requirements for students to enroll in a public school kindergarten. The new law states that students entering kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year must be 5 years of age by September 1, 2024. For your reference, the change is reflected in [Public Act 23-208 section 1\(a\)](#).

Any child who is not five years old on or before September 1, 2024, but turns five before January 1, 2025, may submit a request in writing to me, Mrs. Laura Kaddis, Principal of Hurlbutt Elementary School, to be considered for early enrollment. Prior to any request, I encourage families to discuss this important transition with their child's preschool provider.

Students who are enrolled in the Hurlbutt Early Learning Center (ELC) who are not 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2024, will remain in the ELC until they are age-eligible for kindergarten.

The Weston Board of Education is in the process of reviewing and amending the Ages of Attendance Policy (5112) to reflect the new legislation.

As a reminder, Hurlbutt Elementary School opens the kindergarten registration process beginning in January 2024.

Please contact me directly at laurakaddis@westonps.org if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Laura Kaddis
Principal