



Curriculum Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 6, 2024
9:30 AM
Remote Session

- I. Call to order
- II. Approval of October 2024 meeting minutes
- III. Curriculum Updates:
Parents as Partners Events:
 - Numbers in Action: Exploring the math curriculum with your child
 - WIS 10/22/24
 - HES 10/30/24
 - Words in Motion: Engaging with the literacy journey
 - WIS TBD
 - HES TBD
- IV. Status Update: Portfolio+ in PowerSchool
- V.
- VI. WHS Program of Studies
- VII. Next meeting topics
- VIII. Adjournment

Curriculum Committee Meeting

October 2, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Via Google Meet

Present Committee Members:

David Felton (Chairperson), Chad Hoepfner, Lisa Luft

Present Administration:

Lisa Barbiero, Superintendent; Tina Henckel, Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent; Meghan Conetta, WHS Principal; Pattie Falber, WIS Principal; Laura Kaddis, HES Principal; Nicole Clements; 6-12 English CIL; Shawna Johnson, 6-12 Social Studies CIL; Kate O'Keefe, K-12 Visual Arts CIL; Meredith Jackson, Director of School Counseling

1. Call to Order

The meeting called to order at 9:32 a.m.

Discussion:

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

2. Approval of June 2024 meeting minutes

Motion Passed: Move that the Curriculum Committee approve the June 2024 meeting minutes. This motion made by Chad Hoepfner and seconded by David Felton.

2 Yeas – 0 Nays

3. Introduction of Weston's new Curriculum Instructional Leaders for 6-12 English and 6-12 Social Studies

Discussion:

Dr. Henckel introduced Nicole Clements who is the Curriculum Instructional Leader support for English in grades 6-12 and Shawna Johnson who is the Curriculum Instructional Leader for Social Studies in grades 6-12. Tina spoke on their backgrounds and the experience that they bring to Weston.

4. Summer Curriculum Update

Discussion:

- This summer 33 teams of teachers came together for five days to work on curriculum design and updates across eight content areas. The teams worked on units of study and alignment to standards across the K-12 continuum.
- One of the outcomes of this work was the introduction of Curriculum at Glance documents. These public viewing documents were developed to be parent friendly. They are published on the Weston PS website to provide an in-depth view of the curriculum in each content area.

5. PowerSchool Enhancements

Discussion:

- Dr. Henckel spoke on the expansion of district functionality of PowerSchool. She detailed the expanded access of student reports such as the student Smarter Balanced Assessment reports, which will now be housed in a folder for each student.
- The expanded use of the digital platform will include digitized forms to decrease the amount of paper coming home in student's backpacks.

6. Panorama Survey window for families, students and staff

Discussion:

- The District has partnered with Panorama and created a new school climate survey for students, staff and parents to support the school climate goals. Dr. Henckel spoke about the vetting of the questions on the survey and the expectation of comprehensive data on experiences and perceptions of school climate and family engagement.
- The aim is to use this actionable data to drive continuous improvement in school climate and to enhance student engagement and well-being.
- She reviewed some of the topics covered in each of the surveys and reminded community and staff to complete the survey.
- Committee members made suggestions on communications regarding the request to fill out the survey.
- This year the administration will present data that is connected to district goals.

7. Updated Graduation Requirement Discussion

Discussion:

- The State of Connecticut has mandated that school districts have a clearly articulated plan to implement and support computer science standards across the K-12 continuum.
- The District has formed a committee across all grade levels and content areas to work in partnership with Sacred Heart University. The goal of the committee is to design a plan by the end of the school year.
- Some of the action steps from the Committee will be integrated into the District Improvement and School Improvement Plans.

8. New Course Proposal – AP/ECE US History

Discussion:

- Principal, Meghan Conetta presented a preview of course proposals to be presented at the November meeting and reviewed some of the State mandates on graduation requirements.
- The State is now mandating at least a .5 credit in financial literacy. Ms. Conetta stated that the high school is continuing to review which course(s) that are already in place will fulfill this requirement.
- Ms. Conetta also spoke on ECE (Early College Experience) courses and how they have evolved over the years.
- Social Studies Curriculum Leader, Shawna Johnson reviewed the UCONN ECE program with

the Committee. She spoke on the rigor of the ECE courses and the difference between and AP course offering and an ECE course and the cost savings.

- Ms. Johnson spoke on the proposal of two semester-long history UCONN ECE courses proposed for Weston High School--History 1501 and History 1502.
- Ms. Conetta mentioned that the History courses are not the only ECE proposals and that more will be presented in the November meeting.

9. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Curiano

DRAFT

Weston Public Schools



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October, 2024

Subject: Access Your Child's Assessment Reports via PowerSchool

Dear Weston Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you well and that you're enjoying the fall weather! In our ongoing efforts to save resources and streamline communication, we're excited to announce that you are now able to access your child's individual assessment reports online. You will be able to view these through the PowerSchool Parent Portal at your convenience.

The first set of reports available is the Fall NWEA results for students in grades 1 through 9. In the coming weeks, additional reports will be posted, including Smarter Balanced, NGSS, and Progress Reports/Report Cards.

To access your child's reports, please follow this link to the [Portfolio Plus Parent Instructions](#).

Please note, that this feature is available through a web browser only and cannot be accessed via the PowerSchool app. While it's possible to view the reports using a smartphone browser, we recommend using a desktop or laptop computer for the best experience.

If you have any questions or need assistance with PowerSchool access, feel free to reach out to our helpdesk at helpdesk@westonps.org.

Warm Regards,

Tina Henckel, Ed.D.



WHS Program of Studies

November 6, 2024

BOE Curriculum Subcommittee

Presented by: Meghan Conetta, Meredith Jackson, Liz Morris, Kate O'Keefe, MaryFaith Zanghi, Riley⁶ Rapoport

Welcome & Purpose

- Review the Program of Studies
- Present New Course Proposals
- Discuss Revisions of existing courses
- Presenters:
 - Meghan Conetta - Principal
 - Meredith Jackson - Director of School Counseling
 - Riley Rapoport - CIL Math
 - Kate O'Keefe - CIL Visual Arts
 - Liz Morris - CIL Music
 - MaryFaith Zanghi - CIL PE/Health



Introduction: WHS Program of Studies



Program of Studies Overview

Our Program of Studies is designed to empower both students and their families to make reasonable, individualized, and appropriate class schedule choices that contribute to a fulfilling and enriching high school experience.

- 8 Academic Departments, 142 course offerings to support a well-rounded experience
- Aligned to state and national standards, elective options, and advanced opportunities (AP, ECE, Honors, PLTW)



Tracking Your Graduation Requirements

- Tools and Processes for Students to track their progress toward graduation: (25 credits)

- [Course Selection Planner](#)

W
Weston High School Graduation Planner

Requirements	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
Humanities 10 credits	English 4 Credits				
	Social Studies (Including US History & American Government) 3 Credits	World Studies			
	Visual and Performing Arts* 1 Credit				
	World Language 1 Credit				
	Humanities Area Choice* 1 Credit				
Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math 9 credits	Science 3 Credits				
	Math 3 Credits				
	STEM Area Choice* 3 Credits				
Health & Safety 1 credit	Health 1 Credit				
PE & Wellness 1 credit	PE 1 Credit	Health 9 0.35	Health 10 0.35	Health 11 0.15	Health 12 0.15
	Additional Courses from any area 3 credits	PE 9 0.35	PE 10 0.35	PE 11 0.15	PE 12 0.15
Open 3 credits***	Mastery-Based Learning Assessment** 1 credit				
Successful Completion of Portrait of the Graduate 1 credit					
25 total credits required for graduation					Total

*See Program of Studies "Course Designations" for lists of courses that satisfy these requirements.
 **Students earn credit through successful completion of the Portrait of the Graduate ePortfolio.
 ***Beginning with the Class of 2027, all students must complete a Financial Literacy requirement. For the 2024-2025 school year, Personal Finance is the WHS course that satisfies this requirement.
 Every student must also successfully complete the Sophomore Writing Portfolio.



Department-Specific Updates



Format for Department Updates

- Three categories for course changes:
 - Sunset (Removed):
 - Courses that have been discontinued.
 - Revised and/or Updated:
 - Courses with changes to content, structure, or objectives.
 - New! (Added):
 - Courses introduced to meet new student needs or curriculum standard
 - Financial Implications:
 - I.e. materials, resources, software, training, staffing



Mathematics

- Revised and/or Updated:
 - Statistics
 - Restructured from full year to semesters
 - Offering Statistics 1 and Statistics 2
 - Allows for more flexibility in students' schedules
 - Provides sufficient preparation for college-level courses
- New! (Added):
 - Algebra 1 Linear Equations
 - Addresses the diverse needs of learners and promotes equitable access
 - Allows students to build a solid base in algebraic skills
 - Sets up all students for future success in mathematics
- Financial Implications:
 - Staffing Neutral



Art

- Revised and/or Updated:
 - **Advanced Videography (ECE-UCONN) (Honors)**
 - Year-long course reframed curriculum to reflect ECE course pacing and scope
 - Provides students with real world experience in the field of filmmaking, post-production and processing
 - Opportunity for students to earn college credit and learn transferable skills
 - **Advanced Photography (ECE-Sacred Heart) (Honors)**
 - Semester course with reframed curriculum to reflect ECE course pacing and scope
 - Students will create an abbreviated investigation (portfolio/concentration) to prepare them for AP Studio Art and create a college-level portfolio
 - Experiment with alternative processes in traditional and digital photography
 - Utilize higher order thinking skills to create and conceptualize digital imagery that evokes storytelling
- New! (Added):
 - **Advanced 3D Art and Design (Honors)**
 - Semester course with a high level of student interest
 - Focus on the artist mindset while creating and constructing a body of work to prepare students for AP Studio Art and create a college-level portfolio
 - Foundational for career pathways in industrial design, architectural design, fine arts
- Financial Implications:
 - Staffing Neutral / Reallocation of materials



Music

- Revised and/or Updated:
 - Popular Music and Diversity in American Society- ECE (semester course):
 - Change existing year-long ECE course to a semester course to allow for more flexibility when scheduling, would pair well with other half-year courses: Music Theory, Digital Music Production, Music Industry
 - AP Music Theory- ECE Fundamentals/Ear Training 1:
 - Addition of Fundamentals/Ear Training 1 (3 credits), which aligns with the current AP Music Theory course
- Financial Implications:
 - Staffing Neutral
 - New text AP Music Theory-ECE



Physical Education / Health

- Revised and/or Updated:

- Unified PE

- Restructured from students with disabilities only to a course that will provide a unique opportunity for students with and without disabilities to come together through ongoing educational and physical activities.
- Also supports the new National Standards that encourages student choice in how they want to be active to encourage fitness for a lifetime
 - The community class students would continue to meet for a full year
 - Junior and senior students without disabilities will have the option to sign up for a one-quarter course or semester course
 - A one-quarter course would fulfill the current $\frac{1}{4}$ credit for either junior or senior PE
 - A semester course would fulfill the current junior $\frac{1}{4}$ and senior $\frac{1}{4}$ credit PE course requirements

- Financial Implications:

- An increase to the PE materials budget to purchase equipment



Summary

- Routinely reflect and revise as needed to adjust for student interest
- Expand our opportunities for students with various college & career programs
- Continue our commitment to a well-rounded, rigorous curriculum
- Evaluate opportunities for online course experiences

