



Curriculum Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 4, 2024
9:30 AM
Remote Session

- I. Call to order
- II. Approval of November 2024 meeting minutes
- III. Overnight Field Trip Request:
 - Overnight Trip to Washington, DC
 - Thursday, April 3, 2025 - Sunday, April 6, 2025
- IV. Curriculum Updates:
Parents as Partners Events:
 - Max Stossel Parent Event - Nov 21: Max Stossel Parent Presentation
 - Words in Motion: Engaging with the Literacy Journey
 - WIS: TBD
 - HES: Thursday, January 30th from 9:15-10:15
- V. December Holocaust Remembrance Day Events
- VI. The Positive Psychology Read Alouds Project
- VII. Next Generation Accountability System Overview
- VIII. Fall Community Climate Survey Data - Panorama
- IX. Next meeting topics
- X. Adjourn

Curriculum Committee Meeting

November 6, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Via Google Meet

Present Committee Members:

David Felton (Chairperson), Lisa Luft

Present Administration:

Tina Henckel, Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent; Meghan Conetta, WHS Principal; Pattie Falber, WIS Principal; Laura Kaddis, HES Principal; Meredith Jackson, WHS Director of Counseling; Randi Green, Director of College & Career Counseling; Kate O’Keefe, K-12 Visual Arts CIL; Elizabeth Morris, K-12 Performing Arts CIL; MaryFaith Zanghi, K-12 PE/Health CIL

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 October 2024 meeting minutes

Motion Passed: Move that the Curriculum Committee approve the October 2024 meeting minutes. This motion made by Lisa Luft and seconded by David Felton.

2 Yeas – 0 Nays

3. Parents as Partners Events:

Discussion:

- Dr. Henckel and Principal Laura Kaddis spoke on the K-5 parent workshops on math curriculum designed to give parents an opportunity to try the math and to see the math progression.
- Dr. Henckel mentioned that the elementary schools will be conducting parent workshops on the new literacy core curriculum. The dates are to be determined. Principals Pattie Falber and Laura Kaddis will send notification in their weekly updates.
- A new module was added to PowerSchool called Portfolio Plus. Dr. Henckel described some of the reports that parents can access on their student’s assessment portfolio. With this tool, parents can see various reports that previously were mailed home.

4. WHS Program of Studies

Discussion:

- Meredith Jackson gave an overview of the Program of Studies. She spoke on graduation requirements as well as the mastery-based learning assignment that Weston students complete

called the Portrait of the Graduate. The Portrait of the Graduate is a one-credit requirement in which students create and present a portfolio that meets specified domains at the conclusion of their senior year.

- The curriculum leaders reviewed with the Committee revisions and updates to the Program of Studies within their departments.
- Mathematics CIL, Riley Rapoport reviewed a restructuring of the Statistics course and spoke on a proposed new algebra course, Algebra 1 Linear Equations.
- Visual Arts CIL, Kate O’Keefe spoke on updates to the advanced videography and advanced photography courses. These two courses will be offered as an ECE (Early College Experience) for college credits and as honors courses. The advanced videography ECE course is partnered with UConn and the advanced photography course is partnered with Sacred Heart University. With these changes, there are no increases in staffing or materials costs.
- Performing Arts CIL, Liz Morris reviewed the updated courses in music. The current Popular Music and Diversity in Society course is proposed to be shortened from a yearlong to a semester course and will be an ECE course through UConn. She also reviewed a proposed AP Music Theory ECE Fundamentals/Ear Training 1 course for UConn college credit. Both courses are staffing neutral; a new text would be needed for the AP Music Theory ECE course.
- Health and Physical Education CIL, MaryFaith Zanghi spoke to the Committee on the proposed revised Unified PE course. This revision supports the new National Standards of student choice in PE. The costs are staffing neutral.
- Committee members commended the school for offering the ECE courses and asked if any courses were removed. Principal Conetta assured that proposed courses were enhancements and did not cause any courses to be removed from the program.
- Committee member also asked if there would be a particular focus for future ECE courses. Principal Conetta said they would continue to evaluate their program from a cost perspective and student interest perspective.

5. Next Meeting Topics:

Discussion:

Dr. Henckel proposed a discussion on upcoming remembrance days. No other topics were put forth at this time.

6. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Curiano

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WESTON, CT

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP APPROVAL REQUEST FORM

SUBJECT AREA: Social Studies **COST PER STUDENT:** \$870

DATE OF FIELD TRIP: April 3, 2025 - April 6, 2025 **FIELD TRIP DESTINATION:** Washington DC

STATE THE EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE OR RATIONALE FOR THE TRIP:

As part of the Facing History class, we will visit the United States Holocaust Memorial and Museum, the African American History and Cultural Center, and several monuments throughout DC. Visiting these places relates to our study of the Holocaust, to our exploration of divisions within societies and cultural/spiritual resistance, and how societies memorialize the past.

Departure from: Weston High School

Date/Time: Thursday, April 3rd at noon

Return to: Bridgeport train station

Date/Time: Sunday, April 6th at 3:23 pm

Number of students: Difficult to know because this class doesn't run until the 2nd semester. There are 45 students enrolled in the class. I am assuming 20 students will attend

Grade(s): 10-12

Total Number of Chaperones: 3

Ratio of Chaperone to Student: 7:1

Administrator/Teacher in Charge: Jennifer Klein

Names of Teachers: These are teachers who expressed interest. I will need 3: Erin Lebris, Kara Swezey, Jamie Charles, Andy Jorge

Other Adults: _____

Substitute coverage will be required: _____x_Yes _____No

Parent Informational Meeting: Date TBD Location _____

TRANSPORTATION (Please check one)

First Student: Yes x No _____ If yes, how many buses? 1 bus to drop off at Bridgeport Train Station _____

- Alternate Bus Company Name _____
- Van: Driver Name _____
- Student Driver: Name(s) _____

Have you completed and attached to this request form a copy of the cover letter sent to parents? Yes x No _____

Have you provided the school nurse with a list of students that will attend this field trip? Yes _____ No x

Signed: _____
(Teacher)

Requested by: _____
(Principal)

Pre-Approval: _____
(Assistant Superintendent)

Pre-Approval: _____
(Director of Finance and Operations)

INSURANCE COVERAGE Y/N: _____

Approved: _____
(BOE Chairperson)

Request denied

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Weston, Connecticut

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP DETAILED DOCUMENTATION

Trip Destination(s): Washington DC

Departure Date: April 3, 2025

Return Date: April 6, 2025

Trip Leader(s): Jennifer Klein

Travel Agency/Trip Sponsor ("Trip Advisor") (if any): No - planned by me

Detailed Itinerary:

Thursday - April 3, 2025:

*Leave WHS at 12 with First Student Buses to arrive at Bridgeport Train Station to take Amtrak to DC
Travel by metro to our hotel and check in
Dinner on street next to hotel with lots of food options*

Friday - April 4, 2025:

*Breakfast at hotel
Visit the National Archives
Food truck lunch on the National Mall
Visit the United States Holocaust Museum and Memorial
Dinner at Union Station
Monuments by Moonlight Trolley Tour*

Saturday - April 5, 2025:

*Breakfast at hotel
Visit the National African American History and Culture Center
Lunch at the museum
Free time on the National Mall - will supply students a list of monuments and/or museums to visit
Dinner at the food court at the Pentagon City Mall*

Sunday - April 6, 2025

*Breakfast at hotel
Take Amtrak home*

Train Information:

Amtrak:

4/3/25: Bridgeport → DC

1:04 pm → 6:40 pm

4/6/25: DC → Bridgeport

10:20 am → 3:23 pm

Parents will need to pick up students at Bridgeport Train Station

Hotel Information:

Hampton Inn and Suites, Arlington Crystal City
2000 Richmond Highway
Arlington, VA 22202
703-418-8181

- Hotel rooms will be double occupancy for the students, unless there are uneven numbers of students or any particular concerns.
- Chaperones will have their own rooms.
- I visited the hotel and selected it based on the proximity to the metro, proximity to a street with restaurants, a CVS, etc. and because a continental breakfast is included in the price.
- We will be staying on two separate floors and will have two security guards in the hallways overnight for 8 hours.

Means of Travel:

While we are in DC, we will travel by metro. The hotel is located near a metro station.

Travel Budget:

First Student school bus drop off \$59.62 per hour = max \$150 per bus = \$150/30 students = **\$5 per student**

Amtrak cost: **\$136** - per student. **This is a flex ticket and fully refundable if canceled before departure**

Hotel: Hampton Inn and Suites, Arlington Crystal City

- 6 Single Room for chaperones - \$246 per night includes tax and breakfast = \$738 per chaperone
- 18 Double Rooms for students \$246 per night includes tax and breakfast = \$738 per room → **\$369 per student** for 3 nights (based on double occupancy)
- **Completed credit card authorization due ASAP. Full payment within 30 days of arrival**

Security guards in the hotel at night - \$30.50 per hour x 8 hours = \$244 per night x 3 nights = \$732 x 2 guards (we be on two separate floors) = \$1464/30 = **\$49**

Admission to the US Holocaust Museum and Memorial: **\$1 per ticket**

Admission to the US African American History and Cultural Center: **\$1 per ticket**

Monuments by Moonlight Trolley Tour: \$63 each + \$3 tip = **\$66 fully refundable b/c purchased trip insurance**

Coverage of each chaperone's costs:

- Room \$738
- 3 lunches and 3 dinners \$225
- Amtrak \$146
- Metro \$30

PARENT PACKET AND DOCUMENTATION

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS Weston, Connecticut

In view of the Board of Education policy that field trips should be of significant educational value, the coordinator of the field trip must include a cover letter to each parent along with the required forms described below for written permission for their child to participate in a planned activity not held on the school grounds. This letter should include the following information.

- The purpose of the field trip and how it aligns to and enhances the school curriculum.
- The details of the field trip including destination, cost, departure time, return time, lunch provisions, etc.
- Any costs associated with the trip should be noted. This includes a stipulation that money may be made available from the Principal's Fund to provide for students who may be unable to afford the trip.
- The signature of the principal as well as that of the participating teacher.
- Assurance that adequate provisions have been made for chaperones to insure the safety and conduct of students.
- A contact name, email and phone number for questions and if there is an emergency during the trip.

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Weston, Connecticut

**CONSENT FORM FOR DRIVERS OF STUDENTS
ON SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITIES**

The Weston Board of Education is attempting to limit as much as possible the liability of individuals involved in transporting Weston Public School students on school related trips. This is the primary reason why the school system has strongly recommended the use of public transportation whenever and wherever possible to transport students to places of interest.

Individuals who plan to drive Weston students on school related activities should be aware that they assume responsibility and liability when they personally transport students in a private vehicle. Even though the Weston Board of Education's insurance will respond in case of an accident related to a school sponsored activity, when an individual is driving students in a private vehicle, the Board of Education's insurance will respond only after the individual's personal insurance responds. Furthermore, the Weston Board of Education's insurance will generally only respond in cases of third party loss.

- I have read the above statement concerning the responsibility assumed by individuals driving Weston Public School students on school related activities and understand the liability I am accepting in driving students on school-sponsored activities.
- I am a licensed driver in the State of Connecticut.
- I have not had an accident or received a traffic violation during the last three years.
- I currently have automobile insurance in force as prescribed by the State of Connecticut.
- **I have attached to this form a copy of my insurance card and a copy of the Connecticut driver's license.**

Signature

Date

- The Student and the Parents have had the opportunity to read information that was provided about the Trip, and understand that it is their responsibility to review websites for the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) and the most recent State Department Travel Advisory, if any, for the country(ies) that the Student will visit and to review such information periodically for updates and changes, particularly related to COVID-19, prior to the Trip. For Students who will be required to take any medications during the Trip, the Student and the Parents have conferred with the appropriate District personnel about any applicable laws, rules and/or regulations regarding the possession, use and administration of medications in the particular location(s) where the Student will be traveling during the Trip, which may be different from Connecticut’s laws, rules and/or regulations regarding the possession, use and administration of medications.

PLEASE READ AND INITIAL TO CONFIRM:

I have read and/or reviewed the website for the CDC concerning health and other travel risks, cautions, and warnings, and recommendations, including any CDC Outbreak Notice/Travel Health in the areas in which the Student will be traveling, and the CDC and Connecticut Department of Public Health websites regarding COVID-19 available at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/about-covid-19.html> and <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH>, respectively.

I am responsible for consulting with a physician or appropriate specialist for advice on the risks of travel and recommendations for appropriate precautions.

I am responsible for taking the precautions recommended by the CDC.

I will continue to review the information above to obtain the most current, up-to-date travel information possible up to the departure date for the Trip.

_____ Initials of Student

_____ Initials of Parent/Guardian

- The Student and the Parents have reviewed the Trip literature provided by the District and, if applicable, the Trip Advisor, that describes the risks associated with the Trip. The Trip Advisor is solely responsible for describing the risks related to the services it provides. The Student’s and the Parents’ questions and concerns regarding those risks have been addressed to their satisfaction, and they fully understand and assume those risks.
- The Student and the Parents are responsible for evaluating the risks that the Student may face and for taking any health precautions that they deem advisable or necessary and agree that the Student may participate safely in all Trip activities with or without reasonable accommodation. If the Student requires a reasonable accommodation or if the Parents have concerns about the Student’s participation in any Trip activities, they agree to provide written notice to the District at least four (4) weeks in advance of the Trip, unless extraordinary circumstances exist.

and otherwise, whether or not described above, in connection with the Trip and RELEASE AND DISCHARGE the District, its officers, trustees, faculty, employees, agents or other representatives under the direction and control of the District (the “Released Parties”) from any and all liability, damage, injury or loss, including bodily injury or death, arising from, related to, occurring during, or associated with the Student’s participation in the Trip for any reason. These agreements of Assumption of Risks and Waiver of Liability/Release of All Claims do NOT apply if (1) the liability, damage, loss or injury is CAUSED SOLELY BY THE NEGLIGENCE of the Released Parties and do not include the negligence or any other act or omission by any other person or entity (such as the Student, the Parents, other third parties or independent vendors/contractors); or (2) the liability, damage, loss or injury is CAUSED BY THE RECKLESS, WANTON or INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT of a Released Party. These agreements of Assumption of Risks and Waiver of Liability/Release of All Claims will be construed in accordance with Connecticut law.

IV. Indemnification and Hold Harmless

The Student and the Parents agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all claims, lawsuits or demands made by anyone arising from or relating to the Student’s involvement with the Trip, except for negligence caused solely by a Released Party or the reckless, wanton or intentional misconduct of a Released Party.

V. Code of Conduct and Adherence to Standards

The Student and the Parents understand and agree that:

- By participating in the Trip, the Student is subject to the policies, rules and regulations of the District and any host school, company, and/or organization that may be involved regarding conduct on the Trip, including but not limited to the *[Insert Tour Agency Policies, if applicable]*, attached as Appendix A, and may be subject to District disciplinary action as provided in the District’s Student Handbook and applicable student discipline policies for any violations of applicable policies, rules and/or regulations.
- The Participant will be subject to the laws, rules and regulations of the country[ies] where the Student is traveling and those laws may be substantially and materially different from those in the United States.
- While participating in the Trip, the Student will comply with the Expectations and Code of Conduct, attached as Appendix B, and the Expectations and Protocols Related to COVID-19, attached as Appendix D, and will not engage in inappropriate conduct, including but not limited to, the use of physical or verbal threats or violence, abuse of the customs or mores of the community, or unauthorized absences from scheduled Trip activities.
- Consumption, use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol will not be tolerated. The laws of many foreign countries state that possession or use of illegal drugs is punishable by fine, imprisonment and/or deportation.
- The Student will obey all directives issued by the District, the Trip Leader(s), any associated organizations and/or the United States Government.

Trip and thereby causing the Student to travel separately from Trip participants and chaperones. Such early withdrawal of the Student from the Trip by the Parents and/or the Student presents risks to the Student personally and to his/her property, some of which may result in serious personal injury or death. Notwithstanding the foregoing, should the Student choose to, or should the Parents cause the Student to, remain at the Trip location or elsewhere after the Trip ends, or should the Student leave the Trip voluntarily or involuntarily, the Student will cease to be involved in the Trip; the Parents will be fully responsible for the Student thereafter; and the District will not be responsible for supervising the Student in any respect, or for any injury, loss, or damage to the Student's person or property.

X. Severability

It is understood and agreed that, if any provision or term of this Agreement or the application thereof is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions, terms or applications of this Agreement, which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, terms or applications. To this end, the provisions and terms of this Agreement are declared severable.

XI. Governing Law; Venue

This release shall be construed in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of Connecticut. The parties agree that the venue for any dispute arising under this Agreement shall be in any Connecticut court of competent jurisdiction.

XII. Construction and Scope of Agreement

The language of all parts of this Agreement shall in all cases be construed as a whole, according to its fair meaning, and not strictly for or against any party. This Agreement, which includes the entire International Travel Packet, is the entire and complete agreement of the parties relating in any way to the subject matter hereof. This Agreement supersedes any earlier written or oral understandings or agreements between the parties.

Student signature Date

Parent/Legal Guardian signature Date

Parent/Legal Guardian signature Date

Weston Public Schools

Signature Date

Print Name Title

Passport Information Form

If you have a passport, please complete this form. If you do not yet have your passport, you must complete this form as soon as you receive your passport. Make sure to attach a photocopy of the first page of your passport, showing your personal data and signature. If you have a student visa, please make a photocopy of your I-20 form as well.

Name as it appears on passport

Country of issue

Passport Number

Date of Issuance

Place of Issuance

Date of expiration

**YOU MUST ATTACH A PHOTOCOPY OF THE FIRST PAGE OF YOUR PASSPORT
SHOWING YOUR PERSONAL DATA AND SIGNATURE**

Home Telephone

Business Telephone

Cell Phone

E-mail Address

confirm the instructions and wishes of the Student as expressed in this Authorization.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian

Address

Home Telephone

Business Telephone

Cell Phone

E-mail Address

4. If the answer to number 3 is yes, does your child have a prescription for an EpiPen?

5. Is there any medical restriction or other reason that would cause your child to be unable to participate in any part of the Trip?

6. You are strongly encouraged to purchase travel insurance for your child to cover accident, illness and injury. Have you purchased travel insurance for your child that covers accidents, illness and injury while abroad? If so, please provide policy information below.

7. In order to participate in the Trip, you must provide us with the following:

- a. A medical certificate from the child's physician certifying that your child is physically able to travel abroad, up to date with all scheduled immunizations, and is able to participate in all aspects of the Trip with or without reasonable accommodations.
- b. The administration of medication on this Trip shall be done in accordance with the District's 5141.21 and all applicable laws. As such, if the Student is required to take any medications during the Trip, an authorized prescriber must provide a written medication order, including the recommendation for self-administration by the Student, if applicable. A parent/guardian must meet or speak with the school nurse prior to the Trip to review and discuss procedures for the administration of the medication.
- c. I have filled out the medical and emergency contact information section above fully, accurately and to the best of my ability and I certify that there is no medical or health condition that I have not reported herein.

Name of Parent/Guardian (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

APPENDIX A

[Insert Tour Agency Policies, if applicable]

(continued from page 26)

I have read the above rules and regulations. I agree to the consequences in the event a problem with my child arises. I understand that I will be required to provide transportation for my child to return home, if it is deemed necessary by the chaperone(s) and/or the District's administration.

Parent's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I have read the above rules and regulations and I agree to abide by them. I also understand that, in the event of my misconduct, I will be sent home at my parent's or legal guardian's expense.

Student's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

APPENDIX D

Health and Wellness Expectations and Protocols in Accordance to Policy 5132.2

Before the Trip:

- Students must be in good health, have no flu-like symptoms, including being fever-free for 24 hours before the departure of the trip.
- It is highly recommended that all students participating in the Trip be vaccinated. Please email the school nurse with a copy of your child's COVID-19 vaccination card, if you have not done so already.
- During the week prior to the Trip, students will be required to test for COVID-19. Additional information regarding COVID-19 testing prior to the Trip.
- Students who test positive for COVID-19 before departing for the Trip will not be permitted to participate in the Trip. For information regarding refund policies, please refer to the Agreement above and Appendix C.

Protocols for students experiencing COVID-19 symptoms during the Trip:

- If a student experiences or exhibits Flu-like or COVID-19 symptoms at any point during the Trip, the following actions will be taken:
- The student promptly will be given a COVID-19 test via self-testing with an FDA approved or authorized COVID-19 test kit ("Test Kit"), administered by the Trip nurse or other chaperone.
- If the student tests negative for COVID-19, the student may continue participating in the Trip with no change to the applicable expectations, rules, and protocols for the Trip.
- The student's parent/guardian will be promptly notified of the test result.

Protocols for students who test positive for COVID-19 via a Test Kit:

- The student will be isolated in a hotel room and will be monitored regularly by the Trip nurse and a chaperone.
- The student's parent/guardian will be notified promptly, and the parent/guardian will be required to travel to the trip site within 24 hours of receiving such notification.
- Once the student is with their parent/guardian at the Trip site, the student's participation in the Trip is terminated and the parent/guardian will be considered to have assumed full responsibility for the student's care, including, without limitation, responsibility for monitoring the student and transporting the student home. The parent/guardian is responsible for all costs incurred in connection with the student upon termination of the student's participation in the Trip, as set forth more fully in Appendix C.

**Quotes from
students about
the storybook
project**

Positive Psychology Storybooks

First, we learned about the field of positive psychology and the research around it.

Next we:

- Created a survey to give to teachers at WIS
- We got the results and analyzed them

Then, we explored other storybooks, gaining inspiration from published authors.

After, we spoke with Mrs. Burke, WIS' school psychologist

We then brainstormed and worked on writing our storybooks and on November 18th and 21st we walked over to WIS to read our books to 3rd-5th graders.

“...[W]hen I made my own storybook, I got to really understand how much mental health matters and how important problem-solving is.” -Gianna Montanaro

“...this project allowed me to thoroughly teach positive psychology through the perspective of childlike characters that the children could relate to.” Delilah Ben-Canaan

“...I learned a lot about [positive psychology], specifically about growth mindset, and how to apply it.” -Elise Heller

“This project definitely helped teach me more about positive psychology. I had a pretty decent understanding of the topic before the project, but taking on the role of an author forced me to really think about how important positive psychology and a growth mindset is, especially for young children.”
-Graydon Dunbar

“I didn't realize there was so many different components to positive psychology and how much little kids need to understand these critical skills in order to thrive in their futures. It also helps me realize that I need to be less critical about myself and have a growth mindset in order to improve my skills.” - Abigaile Mais

“... I thought the way we were able to understand how positive psychology was taught to us helps us understand how our brains processes positive psychology.” -Grant Paul

“...I was able to learn and discover the ways of how emotions affect people.” - Lia Escandon

“...I think that asking teachers certain questions and having them from the surveys helps us and myself develop an understanding on what students struggle with. This project was fun because it was nice to incorporate certain ideas to help children learn something new(like kindness).” - Valentina Forero

“Creating a children's book helps me learn psychology because it makes me think about how kids understand the world. I had to use simple, engaging ways to explain emotions, social interactions, and problem-solving, which deepens my understanding of psychological concepts.” - Dylan Schramm