

Consider approval of the 2026-2027 Secondary New Courses

1. Background:
Curriculum and Instruction collaborated with the secondary campuses on their master Schedule courses for the 2026-2027.

2. Process:
New Courses are being requested for the 2026-2027 school year. Please see page 2-5 for course descriptions.

3. Fiscal Impact:
TBD based on student enrollment in classes.

4. Recommendation:
It is recommended that the Board approves the 2026-2027 secondary new courses.

5. Required:
Board action.

Secondary New Course Descriptions

Course: Advanced Language for Career Applications

(Course Code 11403700)

Grade Placement: 9-12

Credit: 1

Description: The study of world languages is an essential part of education. In the 21st century language classroom, students gain an understanding of two basic aspects of human existence: the nature of communication and the complexity of culture. The Advanced Language for Career Applications course provides students with instruction in terminology that prepares students to communicate in a language other than English in a professional, business, or industry setting. Students will learn how to communicate in the target language and use culturally appropriate language when addressing diverse audiences in different workplace environments.

Course: Advanced Inquiry & Research I

Grade Placement: 6th

Credit: Local Credit

Description: Advanced Inquiry & Research I introduces students to the foundational principles of inquiry-based learning and the research process. Students develop skills in generating questions, identifying credible sources, and gathering relevant information from a variety of print and digital resources. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, organization, and effective communication.

Students learn to evaluate sources for reliability, take structured notes, and summarize information to support basic research findings. Instruction includes opportunities for collaboration, discussion, and presentation of ideas. Students will produce introductory research products such as short written responses, presentations, and multimedia projects.

Course: Advanced Inquiry & Research II

Grade Placement: 7th

Credit: Local Credit

Description: Advanced Inquiry & Research II builds upon the foundational research and inquiry skills developed in Advanced Inquiry & Research I. Students refine their ability to generate complex research questions, evaluate and synthesize information from multiple credible sources, and construct evidence-based arguments. Emphasis is placed on analytical thinking, organization of ideas, and the development of coherent written and oral communication.

Students engage in structured and collaborative inquiry experiences that require the use of academic research processes, including source evaluation, note-taking, and citation practices. Instruction supports the development of problem-solving skills through the exploration of real-world issues and interdisciplinary topics. Students will produce formal research products such as essays, presentations, and multimedia projects.

Course: Advanced Inquiry & Research III

Grade Placement: 8th

Credit: Local Credit

Description: Advanced Inquiry & Research II builds upon the foundational research and inquiry skills developed in Advanced Inquiry & Research I. Students refine their ability to generate complex research questions, evaluate and synthesize information from multiple credible sources, and construct evidence-based arguments. Emphasis is placed on analytical thinking, organization of ideas, and the development of coherent written and oral communication.

Students engage in structured and collaborative inquiry experiences that require the use of academic research processes, including source evaluation, note-taking, and citation practices. Instruction supports the development of problem-solving skills through the exploration of real-world issues and interdisciplinary topics. Students will produce formal research products such as essays, presentations, and multimedia projects.

Course: Court Systems and Practices

Grade Placement: 9th-12th

Credit: 1

Description: Court Systems and Practices is an overview of the federal and state court systems. The course identifies the roles of judicial officers and the trial processes from pretrial to sentencing and examines the types and rules of evidence. Emphasis is placed on constitutional laws for criminal procedures such as search and seizure, stop and frisk, and interrogation.

Course: Technology Applications

Grade Placement: 7th and 8th

Credit: Local Credit

Description: Technology Applications equips students with essential digital skills through hands-on learning in computer applications, coding, multimedia creation, data analysis, and

responsible technology use. Students develop problem-solving, communication, and career-ready skills needed for success in college, careers, and today's technology-driven workforce.

Course: Financial Mathematics

Grade Placement: 9th-12th Grades

Credit:1

Description: Financial Mathematics is a course about personal money management. Students will apply critical-thinking skills to analyze personal financial decisions based on current and projected economic factors.

Course: Criminal Investigations

Grade Placement: 10th-12th Grades

Credit:1

Description: Students will understand basic functions of criminal investigations and procedures and will learn how to investigate or follow up during investigations. Students will learn terminology and investigative procedures related to criminal investigation, crime scene processing, evidence collection, fingerprinting, and courtroom presentation. Through case studies and simulated crime scenes, students will collect and analyze evidence such as fingerprint analysis, bodily fluids, hairs, fibers, shoe and tire impressions, bite marks, drugs, tool marks, firearms and ammunition, blood spatter, digital evidence, and other types of evidence.

Course: Web Game Development

Grade Placement: 10th-12th Grades

Credit:1

Description: Web Game Development introduces students to the design and creation of interactive browser-based games using coding, graphics, animation, and sound. Students learn programming fundamentals, user experience design, problem-solving, and game mechanics while developing original web-based games and digital projects. This course prepares students for careers in game design, web development, software programming, and interactive media.

Course: Foundation of User Experience

Grade Placement: 9th-12th Grades

Credit:1

Description: In Foundations of User Experience (UX), students analyze and assess current trends in a career field that creates meaningful, approachable, and compelling experiences for users of an array of products, services, and/or initiatives of companies, governments, and organizations. Students gain knowledge of introductory observation and research skills, basic design thinking and applied empathy methodologies, collaborative problem-solving and ideation, and interaction design and solution development. The knowledge and skills acquired from this course enable students to identify real-world problems through research and data-driven investigation and to design solutions while participating in collaborative problem solving. Students are introduced to agile practices and methodologies to develop skills to take solutions from conceptual sketch to digital designs using professional software tools. Students explore how to improve the quality of user interactions and perceptions of products, experiences, and any related services.

Course: Communication and Technology in Education

Grade Placement: 9th-12th Grades

Credit:1

Description: Communication and Technology in Education is an extended course of study designed to provide students with the fundamentals of planning, managing and training services needed to provide learning support services in classrooms. Students will develop knowledge and skills regarding the professional, ethical, and legal responsibilities in teaching related to educational technology; as well as, understand laws and pedagogical justifications regarding classroom technology use. This course provides an opportunity for students to participate in training related to Google for Education, Microsoft Office Fundamentals, Common Sense Media and Digital Citizenship as they relate to standards set by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE).

Course: Correctional Services

Grade Placement: 9th-12th Grades

Credit:1

Description: In Correctional Services, students prepare for certification required for employment as a municipal, county, state, or federal correctional officer. Students will learn the role and responsibilities of a county or municipal correctional officer; discuss relevant rules, regulations, and laws of municipal, county, state, or federal facilities; and discuss defensive tactics, restraint techniques, and first aid procedures as used in the municipal, county, state, or federal correctional setting. Students will analyze rehabilitation and alternatives to institutionalization for inmates.