



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

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**Curriculum Committee Agenda**  
**January 4, 2024 9:00 - 11:00 am**  
**BOE Conference Room**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Csilla Csipak, Keith Molinari, Jennifer White, Timothy Salmon

**Administrators in Attendance:** Kristin Fox, Nick Markarian, Sean Siet, Russ Lazovick, Michael Fackelman, David Hunsher, Grant Kolmer, Tom Misiak, John Terry, Stephanie Smith, Cherie Howarth

**1. Board Agenda Items**

**a. Action items to be placed on the next board agenda**

■ [K-5 Mathematics Textbook](#)

Reported out with the November 1, 2023 Curriculum Committee meeting minutes. One member of the public came to the Board Office to review the materials but did not ask any questions. No questions from Board members.

The Committee recommends approval.

■ [Human Rights \(Honors Option\)](#)

This is not a textbook proposal. It is a request to run a concurrent Honors option in the Human Rights course currently offered at Ridge. Human Rights is an elective open to grades 10-12.

Mr. Terry explained that the course is being offered due to the successful implementation of the concurrent Honors option in Ethics, Sociology and Current Issues. Honors students in Human Rights would deepen their understanding of content, do more project-based studies, and take on leadership roles in the classroom.

There is currently 1 section of 16 students enrolled in Human Rights. Mr. Terry does not expect any additional sections if the concurrent Honors option is implemented. If approved, costs of approximately \$6,100.00 for summer curriculum writing, supplemental materials and additional textbooks will be incurred, although the need for a textbook is unlikely which would reduce the cost to \$1,600.00.

Committee recommends approval of the new course option.

- [Honors English 9 Textbook](#)  
Reported out with the December 1, 2023 Curriculum Committee meeting minutes. No one from the public reviewed the materials. No questions from Board members.

The Committee recommends approval.

**b. Items to be listed under “Report on Progress”:**

**2. Discussion Items**

**a. [Health 10](#)**

Ms. Howarth (Ridge Assistant Principal) and Dr. Lazovick (Ridge Principal) presented a proposal to make Health a full marking period in 10th grade.

NJ requires students to take Driver’s Education. In our District, Driver’s Education takes the place of a full marking period of Health in 10th grade. The District has added a 3 week instructional period on Teen Mental Health and First Aid (TMHFA), and when that is complete, students are returned to PE classes.

The NJ Learning Standards for 10th grade Health are taught in 9th, 11th and 12th grade, and the combined content is rushed. Teachers have advocated to add 6 weeks of Health content to 10th grade in order to move some content to grade 10; allowing for the other grades to be less rushed and to add in some additional content not currently covered.. Topics covered would be on Nutrition, Drugs and Alcohol, Coping Skills and Strategies. Nutrition and Drugs and Alcohol would be created by moving some content from the upper grades and Coping Skills and Strategies would be a new unit in Grade 10. At the end of the 22-23 school year, students were surveyed and over 70% felt Health was an important instructional topic.

One Board member asked why the teachers feel we need to address these topics. The Board member asked if repeating topics related to suicide and depression reinforces the same thoughts. Ms. Howarth explained that the topics were selected based on feedback from staff and students. Ms. Fox also explained that we collect data relative to our District for the Trends in Mental Health, and in the PRIDE Survey, and the staff is mindful of repeating discussions related to suicide, whereas it is helpful for topics such as drug and alcohol education.

One Board member asked if the District has looked at the impact of taking away Option 2 for sophomores for marking periods 1 and 2.

Dr. Lazovick said there have been very few complaints from students after this change was implemented.

Questions to be discussed by the full Board at the January 22 meeting:

Does the BOE support extending Health 10 to a full MP (adding 6 weeks) or just have kids go back to Phys Ed for those 6 weeks?, and

If the Board supports this proposal, should Health 10 go in Marking Period 2 or 3? The Administration would prefer Marking Period 3. Moving Health 10 to MP 3 allows all students to access Option II during MP2 which is the heart of the winter season. This helps provide the needed extra time during the school day when student-athletes need it most.

b. QUEST WAMS - Grades 6, 7, 8\*

Discussion tabled for now, because new electives are being introduced. This topic will be revisited in the Spring of 2025.

c. Program of Studies 2024-2025

■ [Amendments At-A-Glance](#)

Ms. Fox and Ms. Smith discussed the changes to the Program of Studies for the 24-25 school year. The website will be launched in the 3rd week of January, and there will be a PTO presentation at WAMS on January 24 and a presentation to 8th grade students on January 23. There will be a course fair on January 31 at Ridge where students can talk to teachers and students who have taken those courses. Feb. 1 is academic planning night for WAMS students and parents at Ridge.

Other notes:

- Math: Allow students to selected AP Statistics if they met the grade requirement from a Pre Calc or Calc course (expands prerequisite requirement to be more flexible); and
- Social Studies: Students have to use a required course grade (as opposed to an elective grade) as a prerequisite grade.

■ [Student Government Request \(permit sophomores to take more than 2 AP courses\)](#)

The Administration recommends continuing the current practice of limiting sophomores to 2 AP courses. There are very narrow exceptions for native speakers and mid-year transfer students (e.g., if a sophomore student comes to Ridge mid-year and is taking more than 2 AP courses, we would allow him/her to continue). And, this does not limit the

self-study option (e.g., students could take the AP Pre-Calc exam, though the District does not offer an AP Pre-Calc course). If we formally change this limit, colleges could hold students to this higher standard.

Currently, there are 5 AP courses available sophomore year: AP Physics 1, AP Comp Sci, AP US History, AP European History, and AP Human Geography.

One Board member asked what other high schools in NJ allow for AP courses. Another Board member asked why the limit was set to 2. Ms. Fox said she will gather information about other NJ schools and report back.

d. [ELA Program Evaluation](#)

Dr. Hunscher reviewed the Executive Summary (linked document) of the ELA Program Evaluation. The full report is linked at the end of the Executive Summary)

One Board member asked why we do not offer Honors ELA courses in middle school. Dr. Hunscher replied that only 4 out of 21 schools investigated offered Honors options. He explained that a heterogenous classroom is preferable at the middle school level to raise the level for all students.

e. [MP 1 Grade Analysis](#)

See below.

f. [Summer Financial Literacy Assessments](#)

Tabled to next month.

g. [Class Size report - Draft update \(Report will be finalized by Wednesday 1-17-24.](#)

Ms. Fox reviewed the draft Class Size report.

### 3. FTGOTO

*\*Times are estimates*

**Next meeting: Friday, February 2, 2024 9-11am**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Timothy Salmon**

**Ridge HS Student Grade Analysis (MP1 2023-24)**

MP 1	2023-24		2022-23		2021-22		2020-21		2019-20	
	Students	Courses	Students	Courses	Students	Courses	Students	Courses	Students	Courses
D+, D, D-	83	107	101	122	120	156	147	208	109	130
E	31	41	24	35	38	54	49	75	34	41

**Breakdown of Ds and Es by Department, Fall 2023**

Department	Course (# of students)	# of students	# of Es	% of Es	# of Ds	% of Ds	Notes
Mathematics	Algebra I	121	2	2%	8	7%	
	CP Algebra II	93	2	2%	5	5%	
	Algebra II SE	25		0%	1	4%	
	Enriched Algebra II	191	1	1%	3	2%	
	Geometry	268	2	1%	4	1%	
	PreCalculus	217	1	0%	9	4%	
	Statistics	73	1	1%		0%	
	IAT B	20	1	5%	1	5%	
	AP Statistics	72		0%	1	1%	
	Senior Math Topics	40		0%	1	3%	
Science	CP Biology	91	2	2%	1	1%	
	CP Chemistry	98	4	4%	3	3%	
	Enriched Biology	146	2	1%		0%	
	CP Physics	104	1	1%	1	1%	
	Enriched Chemistry	152	1	1%	6	4%	
	AP Physics 1	117		0%	1	1%	
	Honors Bio	135		0%	1	1%	
	Honors Chem	117		0%	3	3%	
Social Studies	US History	172	1	1%	5	3%	
	Global History 2	245	2	1%	4	2%	
	History of Govt & Econ	149	1	1%	1	1%	
	AP Econ	112		0%	3	3%	
	AP Psychology	143		0%	1	1%	
	AP Euro	37		0%	1	3%	
	Current Issues	13		0%	1	8%	
ELA	English 9	212	2	1%	4	2%	
	English 10	214	1	0%	3	1%	

	Honors English 10	157		0%	2	1%	
	English 11	199		0%	2	1%	
	Honors English 11	46		0%	1	2%	
	English 12	230	1	0%	3	1%	
	Essential Elements of English	18		0%	2	11%	
World Languages	Francophone Culture & Society B	15	2	13%	1	7%	
	French III	16	1	6%	1	6%	
	ASL I	39		0%	1	3%	
	ASL IV H	12		0%	1	8%	
	AP Spanish	40		0%	2	5%	
	Italian II	33		0%	2	6%	
	Spanish I	64		0%	3	5%	
	Spanish II	91		0%	3	3%	
HPE	Ridge Athletics	143	2	1%		0%	
	Off-Site	52	3	6%		0%	
Career	CAD II	18	1	6%		0%	
	Adv Arch & Design	42		0%	1	2%	
Business	Intro to Law	102	1	1%	1	1%	
	Entrepreneurship	18		0%	1	6%	
	Honors Personal Finance	23		0%	1	4%	
Visual Arts	Ceramics II	15		0%	1	7%	
	Design Through Sculpture	18		0%	2	11%	
	Intro to PhotoShop	49		0%	1	2%	
ESS	ESS Study Skills	9		0%	1	11%	
VoTech	Phys Ed Vo-Tech	5		0%	1	20%	