

2016-17

Program of Studies



Every Student Succeeds

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Essential Questions

- How does the Program of Studies align with the characteristics of high performing learning organizations?
- What is the purpose of the Program of Studies?
- How does the Program of Studies link to students' Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAPs) ?
- What is new in the 2016-17 Program of Studies?
- What courses have changed or deleted in the 2016-17 Program of Studies?

Vision: Alexandria City Public Schools will be an excellent and high-performing school division characterized by:

- **Clear Focus:** everyone knows what we are doing, how to do it and why
- **Expectations for All Students:** belief that every student can learn
- **Strong Instruction Program:** rising achievement of all students
- **Effective School Leadership:** nurture an instructional program and school culture
- **Collaboration and Communication:** strong teamwork among teachers, staff and parents
- **Alignment with State:** staff understands the role of state assessments
- **Frequent Monitoring:** different assessments identifying students who need help & assigning intervention
- **Ongoing System of Staff Training:** training staff in areas of most need
- **Supportive Learning Environment:** school has a safe, clean and intellectually stimulating learning environment
- **High Levels of Family and Community Involvement:** sense that all have a responsibility to educate students

Purpose of the Program of Studies

- Begins the advisement period for students and families
- Provides guidance for Individualized Career and Academic Planning (ICAPs)
- Outlines schedule possibilities at all grade levels
- Links school-based learning with the knowledge and skills required for success in the workplace
- Offers steps for academic and career planning for grades 6-12
- Includes course requirements and expectations
- Defines graduation requirements
- Provides information about academies (STEM, EXCEL, IA, AOF)
- Lists support offered to students
- Provides students and families with a list of course offerings

New information

- Proposal for the STEM academy
- Description of the EXCEL academy
- High School Honors, Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment Intervention Support
- Seal of Biliteracy
- ACT/SAT combination exam
- ACT choice exam
- CTE credentials

Course Additions

- Honors Social Studies at 11th and 12th grade
- Honors 12th grade English
- Ten courses have been added to the high school
- One additional support class at the middle school

Course Changes and Deletions

- Updated descriptions for middle school Mathematics, World Languages, Physical Education, CTE and in the Arts
- Updated Advanced Placement course names to match the College Board
- Special diploma changed to Applied Studies
- Two courses deleted from high school
- 1 on-line course deleted

Questions and Discussion

