

Date: 11/23/15

For ACTION X
For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes X
No

FROM: Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Executive Director of Secondary Instruction

THROUGH: Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Karen Graf, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Program of Studies for 2016-17 for Secondary Schools

BACKGROUND: February 1, 2016 marks the start of the enrollment process for secondary students for the 2016-17 school year. Students and their families are provided with a Program of Studies that provides information on graduation and school practices that support their learning. The Program of Studies also includes a comprehensive list of courses available to meet graduation requirements, provide opportunities to explore a wide-range of disciplines, and meet diverse student needs and interests.

A committee of administrators, guidance staff from each school of the secondary schools, along with Curriculum & Instruction and Communications staff, worked to design and develop the proposed Program of Studies for the 2016-17 school year. These committee members worked with various departments in each school to solicit recommendations for course revisions, additions and deletions that incorporated trends in student interest and demand, as well as ensuring that the division is meeting new and revised course and graduation requirements from the Virginia Department of Education.

The entire proposed Program of Studies is attached for your review. The tables below provide an overview of changes from the previous Program of Studies (2015-16).

Once the Program of Studies is approved, it will be published on the ACPS website and printed in hard copy form for distribution to students, parents/guardians, and school staff at the end of January, as staff members begin to meet students and their parents/guardians to plan for each student's 2016-17 course selection.

PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2016-17 Revision SUMMARY

COURSE ADDITIONS					
Name	Credit	Rationale	Budget Implications		
			Materials	Staff	Facilities
Honors Virginia and U.S. Government – We the People	1	Provides more options to our students at 12th grade for Social Studies	Books and materials	None	
Hospitality & Tourism Marketing	1	Offer students the opportunity to gain skills for future industries	Books and supplies	None	
AP Seminar	1	This course was offered, but was not in the Program of Studies	None only teacher training	None	
Honors World History and Geography Part 2	1	Provides more options to our students at 11 th grade for Social Studies	Books and materials	None	
Education for Employment	1	Changes in Virginia Legislation	none	None	
Teachers for Tomorrow	1	Students have expressed an interest in pursuing	None	None	
DE Advanced Entrepreneurship	1		None	None	
Student Help Desk Co-op	.5	Offers opportunity to service the TC Williams community and use their technical skills	Will use current resources	None	
Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles	1	Offers to students a introductory course to computer science	Will use current resources	None	
Advanced Placement Art: 3-D Design	1	Provides opportunity students to continue to advance in the Arts	Will use current resources	None	
Advanced Placement Art: Drawing Portfolio	1	Provides opportunity students to continue to advance in the Arts	Will use current resources	None	
Ceramics II	1	To update Program of Studies, course is currently offered	Will use current resources	None	
Honors English 12	1	Provides more options to our students at 12 th grade for English	Books and materials	None	
3D Exploration & Design	1	Provides opportunity students to continue to advance in the Arts	Will use current resources		
Advanced Topics in German Language and Culture VI	1	To provide students with a means of maintaining and building upon the fluency they have worked to gain during their years in ACPS.	Will use current resources	None	
Advanced Topics in French Language and Culture VI	1	To provide students with a means of maintaining and building upon the fluency they have worked to gain during their years in ACPS.	Will use current resources	None	
Computer and Cyber Security Solutions	1	Name of course changed and more cyber security was include in the curriculum	Will use current resources	none	

COURSE DELETIONS

Name	Credit	Rationale	Budget Implications		
			Materials	Staff	Facilities
Firefighting	2	Lack of funding from the Alexandria Fire departmnet			
Computer Math	1	No longer qualifies for as a math credit course and low enrollment.			

On-line COURSE Deletions

Name	Credit	Rationale	Budget Implications		
			Materials	Staff	Facilities
Probabilty and Statistics	1	Changes in Virginia Legislation			

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the proposed 2016-17 Program of Studies.

IMPACT: The adoption of the Program of Studies for 2016-17 will affect Secondary programming for students.

CONTACT PERSON: Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Executive Director of Secondary Instruction

ATTACHMENT: Draft Program of Studies for 2016-17