



**FOREST LAKE AREA SCHOOLS
FOREST LAKE, MN 55025**

January 6, 2011

AGENDA ITEM: 12.4

TOPIC: FIRST READING OF CLOUD COMPUTING

BACKGROUND: In the fall of 2010, curriculum discussions led to a .5 credit increase in the science requirement at 7th grade. This increase will take effect in fall of 2011. With the increase in 7th grade science, discussions around elective offerings at the Jr. High level led to the decision to offer 2 credits of elective choice for all 7th and 8th grade students, beginning in the fall of 2011. Elective departments have worked throughout the fall of 2010 to update current offerings or create new course offerings in elective areas. Some offerings will be tailored to mixed groups of 7th and 8th grade students, while some offerings will be offered to grade level students at either grades 7, 8 or 9.

PROCESS: Through the discussions surrounding possible new offerings at the Jr. High Level, the Business department has opted to create a new 8th grade course that introduces students to work with Google Apps and other pieces of new technology referenced as the “cloud.” The new course will focus on real-world, project-based activities that will benefit students in the following ways:

1. Students will learn essential computer skills necessary to success in any academic area at the jr. high or high school level.
2. Providing such a course earlier in a student’s career provides greater opportunity for application of the necessary skills.
3. As a semester course, students will have more time to engage in real-world problems encountered in the world of work.
4. Students will be prepared for other courses in the Business department at an early age.
5. Students will attain life skills necessary for working with Google Apps and other “cloud” technology.

RECOMMENDATION: First reading of a proposal to offer a new 8th grade elective, Cloud Computing, for 2011-12 school year.



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Inspire the Learner, Ignite the Potential

Course Title: Cloud Computing

Course Number:

Grade Level: 8

Credit Hours: .5

Course Description:

Ride the technology cloud! This class is designed as a primer for anyone trying to take advantage of what many believe is the third major wave in computing...Cloud Computing! Discover web-based tools and applications in this technology driven, project-based class. Explore the various tools that Google has to offer. Take your imagination to the max through the use of web-based tools to edit videos and images, create podcasts, wikis, blogs, and websites!

Prerequisite:

none

Articulated Agreements / College Credit(if applicable):

None

Alignment with Minnesota Academic Standards or national/state contest standards:

The following is taken from the Nation Business Education Standards:

I. Impact on Society

Achievement Standard: Assess the impact of information technology on society.

IV. Information Technology and Major Business Functions

Achievement Standard: Describe the information technology components of major business functions and explain their interrelationships.

VI. Input Technologies

Achievement Standard: Use input technologies appropriately to enter and manipulate text and data.

VII. Information Retrieval

Achievement Standard: Gather, evaluate, use, and cite information from information technology sources...

XVII. Information Technology Careers

Achievement Standard: Describe positions and career paths in information technology.

From the National Standards for Business Education © 2001 by the National Business Education Association, 1914 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191.