High School & Middle School
COURSE PROPOSALS
2027-28

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Chief Academic Officer

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE PROPOSALS

Career and Technical Education

Business Communications

PROPOSED CHANGE

- Addition of course
- Satisfies KSDE and Blue Valley's Communication Graduation Requirement

RATIONALE

- This course provides students with the opportunity to develop and strengthen their communication skills within a content area that is of significant interest to many Blue Valley students.

Career and Technical Education

Culinary Arts A & B

PROPOSED CHANGE

- **NAME CHANGE ONLY**
- Remove numerical progression of courses (Culinary Arts I and II) to alphabetical

RATIONALE

- Kansas State Department of Education pathway compliance to align with competencies taught in Blue Valley courses.

Career and Technical Education

AP Cybersecurity

PROPOSED CHANGE

- Addition of course

RATIONALE

- AP Cybersecurity expands advanced academic opportunities for students by offering college-level coursework in a high-demand field while broadening AP offerings within CTE. The course enhances the relevance and rigor of this CTE strand by more closely aligning curriculum and learning outcomes with evolving industry expectations and labor market needs.

Visual Arts

Digital Photography & Imaging

PROPOSED CHANGE

- Discontinue offering Photography I/II (film-based photography.)
- Change Digital Imaging I/II to Digital Photography (repeatable.)

RATIONALE

- Film photography is increasingly a niche artistic endeavor.
- Students can learn the foundations of capturing images in Digital Photography.
- Increases in demand for skills/careers in digital photography.
- Other chronic challenges: high cost of supplies, small course caps, equipment purchase/maintenance difficulties, etc.

Visual Arts

Various Visual Art Courses

PROPOSED CHANGE

- Remove the sequential component of the course title and make repeatable.
  Example: Drawing I & Drawing II become Drawing (repeatable)
- This change makes the courses more flexible for students within their schedules and creates more staffing efficiencies.

COURSES

- Drawing
- Painting
- Graphic Design
- Digital Photography
- Ceramics
- Sculpture
- Jewelry/Metalsmithing

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE PROPOSALS

Mathematics 8

PROPOSED CHANGE

- Integrated Mathematics 8 would become Mathematics 8.
- No change to the course curriculum/objectives.

RATIONALE

- This is the final step in a three-year, phased-in change to middle school mathematics courses.
- Sixth and seventh grade courses have been renamed Mathematics 6 and Mathematics 7 in the previous two years.

Career and Technical Education

Introduction to Family and Consumer Sciences 6

PROPOSED CHANGE

- New FACS course for 6th graders
- Replaces Exploring Foods 6 and My Style 6

RATIONALE

- Introductory course for 6th grade students designed to provide early exposure to concepts and skills explored in subsequent pathway courses.

DRAFT COURSE DESCRIPTION

In Introduction to FACS, 6th grade students will be introduced to functional style and design, sewing skills, kitchen safety, and nutrition. Students will learn life skills such as: using a budget for simple recipes, utilizing kitchen tools and equipment safely, operating sewing equipment to create functional projects. This course builds confidence, creativity, problem-solving, and responsibility while helping students develop skills they can use for a lifetime.

Career and Technical Education

Sewing and Design Studio 7/8

PROPOSED CHANGE

- New course for 7th and 8th graders

RATIONALE

- Advanced-level course that extends foundational concepts, emphasizing deeper understanding and practical application of knowledge and skills.

DRAFT COURSE DESCRIPTION

Do you enjoy being creative and making things with your own hands? In Sewing and Design Studio, students will learn the basics of sewing, fabric selection, pattern use, and design while creating FUNctional, hands-on projects. Students will develop practical skills by learning how to safely use sewing equipment, follow project instructions, and express their creativity through personalized designs. This class offers something for everyone. No previous sewing experience is required.

Career and Technical Education

Engineering Explorations 6

PROPOSED CHANGE

- New course for 6th graders
- Replaces Pre-Engineering 6

RATIONALE

- Introductory course for 6th grade students designed to provide early exposure to concepts and skills explored in subsequent pathway courses.

DRAFT COURSE DESCRIPTION

A hands-on introduction to sixth graders on how engineers identify needs, communicate ideas, measure accurately, build and test prototypes, collect and evaluate data, and improve designs. Students explore technology's effects on people and the environment, practice safe tool and material use, create and interpret drawings, collect performance data, and solve problems.

Career and Technical Education

Applied Engineering 7/8

PROPOSED CHANGE

- New course for 7th and 8th graders
- Replaces Pre-Engineering Robotics 7

RATIONALE

- Advanced-level course that extends foundational concepts, emphasizing deeper understanding and practical application of knowledge and skills.

DRAFT COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will investigate how forces, materials, mechanisms, energy, and manufacturing processes affect the performance of real products. They will also design and test structures and moving systems, analyze measurements and test data, compare materials and production methods, and use fabrication tools or digital manufacturing when available. Students will design a solution, make or assemble key parts, test it against measurable criteria, and explain what the evidence shows.

Career and Technical Education

Technology Explorations 6

PROPOSED CHANGE

- New course for 6th graders
- Using course name currently in use, but adding more course content

RATIONALE

- Introductory course for 6th grade students designed to provide early exposure to concepts and skills explored in subsequent pathway courses.

DRAFT COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduces sixth graders to the skills and thinking needed to use technology responsibly and creatively. Students build a foundation in digital literacy and explore what it means to be a digital citizen. Students also apply basic principles of design to produce original audio/visual projects. Using computational thinking, students will use code to solve problems. These hands-on experiences prepare students for further exploration in the field of technology throughout middle and high school.

District Budget Efficiency Efforts

Enrollment Minimums

- All courses are subject to **minimum "make numbers"** as part of our budget efficiency efforts.
- For middle and high school courses, this number is **typically 18**.
- **Variances are allowed** for specific courses (e.g. intervention, space limitations, etc.)