



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

December 6, 2012

AGENDA ITEM: 9.7

TOPIC: APPROVE NEW ART APPRECIATION COURSE

BACKGROUND: Students working to earn their high school diploma engage in Guided Studies courses offered through the Forest Lake Area Schools Area Learning Center. Forest Lake Area High School and the ALC worked throughout the 2011-12 school year to explore alternative offerings at both sites for students that were struggling to meet the credit requirements in several areas. Through the course of that work and continuing work this year, discussion arose around being able to provide a wider variety of elective choices for students through the Guided Studies program.

PROCESS: After a year of exploration and piloting, the ALC and Forest Lake Area High School utilized courses provided through Apex Learning Virtual School. Apex Learning is accredited by the Northwest Accreditation Commission. The courses that were used during this exploration phase matched up with current course requirements and standards already in place at the secondary level.

During the 2012-13 school year, the ALC has chosen to add a few more Apex courses, already approved through our registration guide. These include Creative Writing and Chemistry in the Community. The ALC would like to be able to offer the Apex course entitled Art Appreciation Core as another way for students to earn elective credit towards graduation. At this time, FLAS does not offer an Art Appreciation Course at the secondary level. The Apex course has been discussed in the Art Department and the group is open to exploring this opportunity. This course would only be available through the Guided Studies program at the ALC.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve new Art Appreciation Course for 2012-13.