



GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10

DATE OF MEETING: November 18, 2014

TITLE: Approval of New High School Courses for 2015-16 School Year

BACKGROUND:

Canyon del Oro's International Baccalaureate Program includes an emphasis on modern language courses. In the past, the Governing Board has approved several modern languages. As part of our efforts to expand course offerings for a wider range of students, we have already approved the following modern language *ab initio* courses:

IB German *ab initio* (SL)

IB French *ab initio* (SL)

IB Russian *ab initio* (SL)

We would now like to request approval for the following course:

IB Spanish *ab initio* (SL)

Because these courses are introductory in nature and are designed for students with little to no previous experience in the language (focusing on practice and exploration of the language as well as developing intercultural understanding), we do not recommend these courses carry a weighted grade as is usually the case for IB courses.

Ironwood Ridge is proposing a new English elective class focusing on poetry. Included in this class are opportunities for reading, writing, analyzing, critiquing, memorizing, and performing poetry which address many of the reading and speaking standards in grades 9-12 Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards. The class would be called Poetry Out Loud.

Canyon del Oro is proposing a change to the AP U.S. Government and AP Economics classes this year. Both classes are currently offered exclusively as year-long courses. This change would primarily impact pre-IB students who would like to take government and economics in their sophomore year but who do not have room in their schedules for two year-long classes. The CDO staff hopes it will also increase the total number of students choosing to take the Advanced Placement version of these two courses. Because there is some concern expressed by others who have taught the year-long AP courses in the past, we recommend this as a pilot for one year at CDO only which would allow us to closely monitor student success on the AP exams in the shortened course format.

Amphi High currently has a Web Page Development program in its Career and Technical Education program. They are seeking to add a fourth class to the program. This course will be for students who have successfully completed the first three classes of the program. In this Web Page Development III class, students will work on real-life projects they propose and develop using independent research and design. Students will incorporate their prior web page development knowledge gained from their previous classes into projects for this class.

Amphi High would like to offer an Automotive Diesel CTE program starting in 2015-16. Current industry labor market data shows a need for qualified diesel mechanics and automotive technicians both locally and across the state and nation. The program will focus on fundamental automotive skills and will include introductory diesel fundamentals. Students participate in hands-on activities that include, but are not limited to, safety, brakes, tire mounting, tire balancing, tire rotation, oil changes, basic diesel skills, and basic 4 stroke engine tear down and rebuild.

Ironwood Ridge and Amphi High School each have CTE engineering programs. There is a need to modify the beginning course of these programs to reflect changes to the content based on current course offerings at the middle schools and curriculum to be addressed in the beginning course of the high school Engineering CTE program sequence. This new course will be Pathways to Engineering. The course will introduce various types of engineering, including biomedics, robotics, automation, and computer aided drafting.

Ironwood Ridge is proposing an AP Human Geography course to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students learn to employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications.

RECOMMENDATION: The administration recommends that the Governing Board approve these new courses.

INITIATED BY:



Monica Nelson, Associate Superintendent

Date: November 13, 2014



Patrick Nelson, Superintendent