

Geneva High School

Memorandum

To: Board of Education
From: Doug Drexler
Date: November 16, 2020
Re: GHS New and Modified Courses for 2021-2022
Cc: Dr. Mutchler, Dr. Barrett, Mrs. Sims

Although much of our recent focus has been on the highly unusual start to the current school year, we have also been working on plans for the 2021-2022 school year. We are recommending three new courses as well as modifications to seven existing courses. Along with these course changes, we are recommending renaming our Physical Education Department to the Wellness Department to better reflect the increasing focus on mental well-being in addition to physical fitness. All of these changes will better enable us to meet the continually evolving needs of our students. The recommendations for 2021-2022 are unlikely to require significant changes in staffing, space, or materials.

To date, these new and modified course proposals have been reviewed by the GHS Department Chairs, Building Leadership Team, Building Administration, Secondary Principals, and the Administrative Cabinet. We await your approval before allowing students to register for these courses.

Just to keep you informed, we are also planning to offer one or two sections of our existing Personal Finance course in a fully-online format during the 2021-22 school year. GHS Personal Finance will now be available to students in a total of four different formats: standard, blended, fully-online, and fully-online summer school.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the proposed changes that appear in this report. We are requesting that this appear on the October 26th Board of Education agenda for an informational presentation, with a subsequent vote for approval at the November 16th Board of Education meeting.

Summary of Fall 2020 Curriculum Proposals from Geneva High School

<u>Proposals to Modify Existing Courses:</u>			
Department:	Course:	Summary of Proposed Change:	Anticipated Materials and Training Costs:
Art	3D Design	Change the course title to Sculpture to better communicate the content of this course. If students don't read the course description, they sometimes make the assumption that this is a computer-based design class (similar to our Graphic Design class).	None
Business	Keyboarding & Technology	Change the course title to Microsoft Office Suite to better reflect the course content. Increase focus on skills leading to Microsoft Office Specialist Certification.	None

Business	Computer Software Applications	Change the course title to Advanced Microsoft Office Suite to better reflect the course content. Increase focus on skills leading to Microsoft Office Specialist Certification.	None
Math	Computer Science A (PLTW)	Change the course title to AP Computer Science A. Over the past few years, the Project Lead The Way Computer Science A curriculum has gradually shifted to fully align with the AP Computer Science A curriculum. This course will continue to be appropriate for students who have successfully completed the PLTW Computer Science Principles course.	\$1,200
Physical Education	All	Rename the Physical Education Department to the Wellness Department. This update better reflects the increasing focus on mental well-being in addition to physical fitness. Traditional fitness classes, health classes, and the new dual credit course (see below) would all fall under the Wellness umbrella.	None
Wellness	Junior PE Leaders	Change the course title to Leadership Principles. Additionally, this course will now be open to seniors (currently open only to juniors). Students sometimes have scheduling conflicts that prohibit them from taking this course as juniors. Opening up this course to seniors will give students another opportunity to participate in this leadership development program.	None
Wellness	Senior PE Leaders	Change the course title to Advanced Leadership. Additionally, this course will now be available to second-semester juniors (currently open only to seniors). Opening up this course to second-semester juniors will allow students to complete both leadership development courses in the same school year.	None
Wellness	PE Leadership	Change the course title to Peer Leadership. Additionally, this course will now be open to second-semester juniors (currently open only to seniors). Opening up this course to second-semester juniors will allow students to complete both leadership development courses in the same school year.	None

Proposals for New Courses:			
Department:	Course:	Description:	Anticipated Materials and Training Costs:
Special Education	Applied Technology	This semester-long course will serve instructional special education students as they focus on developing technology skills in touch-typing and essential features of the Microsoft Office Suite. Applied Technology will be taught using a team-teaching approach and will most likely run once every two years. Placement into the course will be through the IEP process, and it will be open to students in grades 9-12.	None
Special Education	Applied Videography	This semester-long course will serve instructional special education students as they focus on developing functional skills in the areas of communication and technology. Students will work individually and in groups to produce, film, and edit video projects that will display what they have learned. Whenever possible, GTV will air these projects as part of their regular broadcast. Applied Videography will be taught using a team-teaching approach and will most likely run once every two years. Placement into the course will be through the IEP process, and it will be open to students in grades 9-12.	None
Wellness	Social Issues in Sports (dual credit with WCC)	This junior/senior, classroom-based elective course will examine the interaction between sports and culture, the relevance of sport in modern society, and the social processes which influence sport. Topics including the role of youth sports, performance enhancing substances, gender equity, the economics of college athletics, and the interaction between sports and media will be covered. Although this course does not satisfy the PE requirement, it will be classified as a dual credit course with Waubensee Community College (KPE 201: Current Issues in Sports).	\$4,000