



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

February 3, 2011

AGENDA ITEM: 9.15

TOPIC: SECOND READING OF NEW COURSE “SEW WHAT?”

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 discussions on elective course offerings at the jr. high level, the FACS department has updated current course offerings. Through that updating, they are offering a new introduction to sewing course at grade 8. This course would provide access to skills that could be advanced in an alternative class that is currently offered at grade 9. The department has recognized the need for more in depth experiences for students interested in sewing projects at the jr. high level. A course outline is not available at this time, but the course will include development of and practice with basic sewing techniques as students produce projects based on their needs, interests, and ability levels.

The School Board had the first review of this new course proposal at the January 6, 2011, meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of a new 8th grade elective course offering, “Sew What?” for the 2011-12 school year.