

Geneva High School

Memorandum

To: Board of Education
From: Tom Rogers
Date: October 18, 2011
Re: GHS Course Changes/Proposals for 2012-2013
Cc: Dr. Mutchler, Patty O'Neil

Although it seems as if the current school year is just getting underway, we have already been hard at work planning for the 2012-2013 school year. We have proposed a number of course changes and additions that will better enable us to meet the needs of our students. To date, these changes have been reviewed by the Department Chairs, Building Leadership Team, Building Administration, and the District-wide Staff and Curriculum Development Council (SCDC). We await your approval before allowing students to register for these courses.

Although the list of changes is long, many of the changes reflect relatively simple changes in course titles, prerequisites, or the grade levels at which students may take a course. In addition to these simple changes, there are four new courses being proposed for implementation during the 2012-2013 school year.

We believe that all of these changes can be covered with minimal, if any, changes to our staffing levels. Of course, any FTE increases would need to be approved prior to implementation. Some of these changes will likely enable us to make more efficient use of existing course sections. In cases where equipment and/or supplies are needed for a course, this would need to be covered through either existing budget funds, grants, and/or course fees for consumable materials.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the proposed changes that appear below:

Course Changes

Department	Course	Summary
Art	Photography I	Change course name to Introduction to Photography. Eliminate prerequisite.
Art	Photography II	Change course name to Digital Photography
Art	Photography III	Change course name to Advanced Photography Concepts
Art	Photography IV	Change course name to Advanced Photography Concepts II
Art	Art Foundations I	Change course name to Studio Art
Art	Art Foundations II	Change course name to 2D Design Concepts. Eliminate prerequisite.
Art	Sculpture	Change course name to 3D Design Concepts. Eliminate prerequisite. Expand course availability from grades 10-12 to grades 9-12.

Art	Studio I	Change course name to Advanced Studio Art. Prerequisite would be successful completion of 3 semesters of art courses or permission of the instructor.
Art	Ceramics I	Eliminate prerequisite
Art	Graphic Design	Eliminate prerequisite
Art	AP Studio Art	Change prerequisite to be successful completion of 4 or more semesters of art courses with at least a B average.
Business	General Business	Change course name to Business Principles. Expand course availability from grades 9-10 to grades 9-12.
Business	Business Law	Expand course availability from grades 11-12 to grades 10-12.
Business	Accounting I	Change course name to Accounting Principles
Business	Accounting II	Change course name to Advanced Accounting. Expand course availability from grades 10-12 to grades 9-12.
Business	Marketing I	Change course name to Marketing. Expand course availability from grades 11-12 to grades 10-12.
Business	Marketing II	Change course name to Advanced Marketing. Expand course availability from grades 11-12 to grades 10-12.
Business	Computer I	Change course name to Keyboarding and Technology
Business	Computer II	Change course name to Computer Software Applications
Business	Desktop Publishing	Change course name to Digital Marketing. Change prerequisites: Students should take one of the following prerequisites: Keyboarding and Technology, Computer Software Applications, or Introduction to Photography.
Business	Webpage Design	Change course name to Multimedia Design. Change prerequisites: Students should take one of the following prerequisites: Keyboarding and Technology or Computer Software Applications.
English	TV Broadcasting courses	Shift this series of courses to the English Department with an increased focus on communication skills. Change course names to reflect this shift. TV Technology Fundamentals becomes Television Production Techniques, Broadcast Journalism becomes Broadcast Newswriting & Editing, Video Essay and Broadcasting becomes Advanced Broadcasting, Composition for Broadcasting becomes Television Reporting and Writing, and Introduction to Documentaries and Short Videos becomes Television Production of Documentaries & Sitcoms.
English	Reading & Study Skills	Change course name to Freshman Seminar
English	Yearbook I & II	Combine these two 1-semester courses into one year-long course entitled Yearbook.
Industrial Arts	CAD I, II, III, IV	Change course names to Engineering Graphics I, Engineering Graphics II, Engineering Technology, Engineering Design

Industrial Arts	Architectural Drawing I	Change course name to Introduction to Architecture
Industrial Arts	Architectural Drawing II	Change course name to Architectural Design
Industrial Arts	Industrial Technology	Change course name to Engineering Technology Principles
Physical Education	Early Bird PE for Freshmen and Sophomores	Expand current junior/senior option to freshmen and sophomores, opening additional opportunities for students during the school day. The curriculum would follow our existing PE curriculum for freshmen and sophomores.

New Courses

Department	Course	Summary
Industrial Arts	Design & Technology of Animation (Final approval pending from district curriculum committee)	Course introduces students to the basic concepts and applications of computer animation in 2D and 3D formats. Skills developed in this course include creative and critical thinking, problem solving, and multidisciplinary content.
Physical Education	Learning Readiness PE (Final approval pending from district curriculum committee)	Selected freshmen students would be invited to have this PE course directly prior to the math or English course that they are struggling with. The PE course would provide motivation, team building, fitness, brain learning, and specific activities that are shown to increase blood flow to the brain.
Physical Education	Outdoor Adventure Education PE (Final approval pending from district curriculum committee)	A one-semester PE elective focusing on a curriculum that can lead to a healthy lifelong lifestyle. Themes would include teamwork, communication, character development, and conflict resolution. Activities would include hiking, canoeing, orienteering, trail building, rock climbing, and cross country skiing.
Science	Physics Honors	The addition of this course will provide our most able science students the opportunity to delve into additional topics not currently covered by our current Physics curriculum. These areas include geometric optics, static electricity and electric fields, magnetic fields, states of matter, fluid mechanics, thermodynamics, electromagnetic induction and electromagnetism, atomic and nuclear physics and quantum theory.

Additional Information about Proposed New Courses

Design & Technology of Animation

Credit: ½

Grades: 10,11,12

Course Fee: approximately \$10

Prerequisite: Engineering Graphics I or CAD I

Although students are fascinated by the animation that is now routinely imbedded into their daily lives, they don't often stop to think about the highly technical aspects that go into this type of communication. Today's computer animation is a product of developments in the drafting and design fields, most specifically the computer programs used in the CAD classes at GHS.

This one-semester course will focus on how computer animation applies to entertainment, manufacturing, the internet, education, architecture, medicine, business, and product design/evaluation. Students with an interest in any of these fields will benefit from taking this course. Students with an interest in pursuing engineering will have multiple opportunities to apply their knowledge to a variety of other disciplines.

This is a very technical field that encompasses all the core subjects that they study in high school. One has to pay attention to color (design), how things move (science and math), the story behind the character (English) and the attitudes of the viewer (social studies) just to get started. Additionally, this course will encourage the growth of skills in critical thinking, problem solving, and creative thinking.

Although there are no schools in Kane County offering this type of course, there are similar courses that are now offered in other Illinois high schools. A Design & Animation course at the Lincoln-Way high schools and a Drawing & Animation course at Mt. Vernon High School are two examples of high school courses in this emerging field.

Learning Readiness PE

Credit: ½, ½

Grade: 9

Course Fee: None

Prerequisite: None

Identified freshmen students who are anticipated to struggle with their Algebra I and/or English I course will be invited to participate in this PE class. This class will be held just prior to the students' math or English course. As part of this PE course, students will activate all parts of their brain through physical activity. Research has shown that this type of physical activity prior to academic work improves student engagement. Student motivation will also be part of the curriculum in this course, as will close communication between the PE instructor and the math/English instructors. Learning Readiness Physical Education has been adopted by physical education departments throughout the Midwest with positive results.

Outdoor Adventure PE

Credit: ½

Grade: 12

Course Fee: TBD Based on equipment rental

Outdoor Adventure PE is a course that engages students to participate and learn from activities that keep them healthy for a lifetime. The curriculum will also introduce the students to new activities that they may never have had the thought or opportunity to try. The course will also teach students teamwork, communication, character development, & conflict resolution. The units will focus on both individual and group initiatives. By emphasizing team building, problem solving, communication skills, & goal setting, we will strive to develop self-esteem, enhanced social skills, increased ability to problem solve and the development of leadership skills. These characteristics will be achieved through activities including hiking, kayaking/canoeing, orienteering, trail building, rock climbing/knots, & cross country skiing.

Physics Honors

Credit: ½, ½

Grades: 11, 12

Course Fee: None

Prerequisite: Chemistry Honors and completion or concurrent enrollment in Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry

This fast paced, content driven course in the honors sequence covers all of the topics of regular Physics at an accelerated pace. This laboratory science course also covers content beyond that of regular Physics including, but not limited to, geometric optics, static electricity and electric fields, magnetic fields, states of matter, fluid mechanics, thermodynamics, electromagnetic induction and electromagnetism, atomic and nuclear physics and quantum theory. This course is intended as part of a four-year sequence in science for students that possess high levels of internal motivation and strong abilities in the sciences. Laboratory work, projects and achievement on examinations rather than effort and assignment completion are the primary components used to evaluate the students' performance. Due to the mathematics component of this physical science, high abilities in the areas of mathematics and problem solving skills are expected.