



Board Meeting: January 6, 2025

Title: 2025-2026 Secondary Courses General Change Recommendations

Type: Action

Presenter(s): Jody De St. Hubert, Director of Teaching and Learning; Bethany Van Osdel, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning; Mark Carlson, K-12 Science and Mathematics Coordinator

Description: As part of our continuous improvement efforts, each year the Teaching and Learning department brings forth proposals for new courses and recommendations for course changes for School Board review. These proposals and recommendations are generated by district and building staff, reviewed and refined through a committee process and presented to the school board for consideration.

Recommendation: Review and approve the new course proposals.

Desired Outcomes from the Board: Review and approve the new course proposals.

Appendix A:

Tentative Budget Proposals

Attachments:

1. [EHS Course Catalog for Reference](#)
2. [Valley View Middle School Registration](#)
3. [South View Middle School Registration](#)

NEW COURSE PROPOSALS

Valley View and South View Middle School

Department: Special Education/Fine Arts

Course Name: Unified FACS

Prerequisite:

Grade: 6,7, or 8

Length: Semester

Meets Requirement for:

Fee:

Course Description: This class is a leadership/mentoring opportunity for students to work with special education students in the FACS classroom modeling and guiding them to meet their transitional needs to live independently. Mentors will be able to help others work at the pace that meets their unique needs. This class will include specialized units such as food and nutrition (garden), shopping/cooking labs, eating out, table manners, social skills, clothing care, sewing, service project, and body awareness/hygiene. Special education students will be obtaining knowledge and skills required to meet the challenges of everyday life.

Submitted by: Amanda Jacobson, Mattie Jenney, Jodie Mettee

Edina High School

Department: Business

Course Name: Personal Finance

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 10-12

Length: Semester

Meets Requirement for: Personal Finance

Fee: None

Course Description: Personal Finance addresses the identification and management of personal financial resources to meet the financial needs and wants of individuals and families, considering a broad range of economic, social, cultural, technological, environmental, and maintenance factors. This course helps students build skills in financial responsibility and decision making; analyze personal standards, needs, wants, and goals; identify sources of income, saving and investing; understand banking, budgeting, record-keeping and managing risk, insurance and credit card debt. A project based approach and applications through authentic settings will be used with real life applications/simulations. Direct, concrete applications of mathematics proficiencies will be incorporated into daily learning activities. **This is the MDE Course Framework description.*

Department: Math

Course Name: Introduction to Statistics

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

Grade: 11-12

Length: Semester

Meets Requirement for: Elective Math

Fee: None

Course Description: Unlock the power of data and learn to make informed decisions in our Introduction to Statistics class! This course is designed to provide high school students with a foundational understanding of statistical concepts and techniques. Whether you are interested in pursuing a career in science, business, or simply want to be a more informed consumer of information, this class will equip you with the skills to analyze and interpret data.

Course Name: Introduction to Data Science

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

Grade: 11-12

Length: Semester

Meets Requirement for: Elective Math

Fee: None

Course Description: This course introduces students to the main ideas in data science through free tools such as Google Sheets, Python and Data Commons. Students will learn to be data explorers in project-based units, through which they will develop their understanding of data analysis, sampling, correlation/causation, bias and uncertainty, probability, modeling with data, making and evaluating data-based arguments, the power of data in society, and more!

Department: Edina High School Broadcast Department

Course Title: Broadcast Journalism

Prerequisite:

Grade: 9-12

Length: Full Year

Meets Requirement for: Elective

Fee: 0

Course Description: Students who apply for and are accepted on the Broadcast Journalism staff work on the official Edina High School broadcast department. Students will explore the principles of journalism, storytelling, and digital content creation. Students will learn the principles of ethical journalism and, with a hands on approach, explore the role of journalism in society. Collaboration and teamwork are key components of this course, as students will work together to plan, produce, and distribute their work. All students on staff will learn all positions required, such as desk anchor, feature interviewer, camera operations, and digital editing.

Edina Virtual Pathway

Department: Business

Course Name: Career Investigation

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 9-12

Length: Semester

Meets Requirement for: None

Fee: None

Course Description: This course is the study of evaluating postsecondary educational options and careers while developing career skills such as creating resumes and interviewing.

CHANGE COURSE NAME

**With course name changes nothing changes in the registration course guide/catalog but the title of the class.*

Valley View and South View Middle School

Department: Engineering and Technology

Current Course Name: [Intro to Engineering 6](#)

Proposed Course Name Change To: [Engineering Exploration 6](#)

Purpose: The 6th grade teachers feel a more general name for the course better represents the overall scope and sequence of what we teach during a semester.

Current Course Name: [Design & Robotics](#)

Proposed Course Name Change To: [Engineering Design 7](#)

Purpose: The 7th grade teachers feel a more general name for the course better represents the overall scope and sequence of what we teach during a semester.

Current Course Name: [Flight/Space/The Magic of Electrons \("Project Lead the Way"\)](#)

Proposed Course Name Change To: [Engineering 8: Flight, Space, Electricity](#)

Purpose: The 8th grade teachers feel that "the magic of electrons" seemed a little over the top so they thought simplifying it would be a good idea.

Current Course Name: [Coding 8](#)

Proposed Course Name Change To: [Computer Science 8](#)

Purpose: "Computer Science" is a broader term that includes the study of computation, algorithms, and data structures, while "coding" refers specifically to the practice of writing code. The 8th grade teachers believe that Computer Science covers a wider range of concepts beyond just writing code, including research, analysis, and system design.

Edina High School

Department: Science

Current Course Name: [Physical Universe](#)

Proposed Course Name Change To: [Astronomy](#)

Purpose: Due to the new Earth Standards (year-long Physical Earth is now a required high school course for most 9th graders), some of the semester elective Physical Universe typically taken by Junior and Senior students course content will be redundant. The proposed course change will replace this overlapping material and replace it with astronomy and galaxies while also renaming the course to make a clear delineation.

Department: Fine Arts

Current Course Name: Advanced 3D

Proposed Course Name Change To: Ceramics - Advanced 3D

Purpose: The rationale for the name change is to ease student confusion in registration since students have told us they can't find the courses when they use the search tool to find Advanced classes.

Current Course Name: Advanced Digital Photo

Proposed Course Name Change To: Digital Photo - Advanced

Purpose: The rationale for the name change is to ease student confusion in registration since students have told us they can't find the courses when they use the search tool to find Advanced classes.

Current Course Name: Advanced Drawing and Painting

Proposed Course Name Change To: Drawing & Painting - Advanced

Purpose: The rationale for the name change is to ease student confusion in registration since students have told us they can't find the courses when they use the search tool to find Advanced classes.

Current Course Name: Advanced Digital Art & Design

Proposed Course Name Change To: Digital Art & Design - Advanced

Purpose: The rationale for the name change is to ease student confusion in registration since students have told us they can't find the courses when they use the search tool to find Advanced classes.

Current Course Name: Advanced Darkroom Photography

Proposed Course Name Change To: Darkroom Photography - Advanced

Purpose: The rationale for the name change is to ease student confusion in registration since students have told us they can't find the courses when they use the search tool to find Advanced classes.

***The following Course Name Changes are being recommended in consultation with Marilyn Kuppe, Technical Operations Developer in DMTS; Jenny Johnson, Assistant Principal at Edina High School; Tami Jo Cook, Assistant Principal at South View and Erik Low, Assistant Principal at Valley View.

The goal is that the informational Student Registration Course Guide/Catalog at each building matches the actual registration system to increase clarity for all users (students, parents, and staff). Historically numerical numbers connected to a course indicated a grade and roman numerals connected to a course indicated a sequence. Going forward roman numerals will be removed from the system and numerical numbers with a course title will represent a grade and/or a sequence in all registration communication.

This specifically impacts the following at EHS:

Visual Arts

Ceramics 1

Ceramics 2

Digital Photography 1

Digital Photography 2

Digital Art and Design 1

Digital Art and Design 2

Drawing and Painting 1

Drawing and Painting 2

Dark Room Photography 1

Dark Room Photography 2

World Language:

American Sign Language 1
American Sign Language 2
American Sign Language 3
American Sign Language 4
Chinese 1
Chinese 2
Chinese 3
Chinese 4
Chinese 5
French 1
French 2
French 3
French 4 / Traditional
Enriched French 4 / Traditional
French 5
Latin 1
Latin 2
Latin 3
Latin 4
Latin 5
Spanish 1
Spanish 2
Spanish 3
Spanish 4
Enriched Spanish 4
Spanish 5

Math:

Algebra 1
Algebra 2

This specifically impacts the following at Valley View and South View:

Math:

Algebra 1
Algebra 2

CHANGE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Edina High School

Department: Science

Course Name: Physical Universe (requested name change to Astronomy)

Prerequisites: Completion of Physical Earth Science, Completion of Algebra I

Length: Semester

Purpose for Proposed Course Description: This semester-long elective science course is designed to provide students an introductory-level look into the world of astronomy and astrophysics. This course will cover the history of astronomy - from the tracking of stars by ancient civilizations, to Einstein's special and general relativity. Topics will include an exploration of objects in our solar system, the life and death of stars, galaxies and dark matter, black holes, and more.

Department: Math

Course Name: College Algebra

Prerequisites: no change

Length: no change

Purpose for Proposed Course Description:

Course Description: (current description) College Algebra is a typical college algebra course that is usually required for first-year college students. It covers linear, quadratic, rational and absolute value equations and inequalities; functions and their graphs; inverse functions; mathematical modeling; imaginary numbers; polynomial functions; exponential and logarithmic functions; and systems of equations and inequalities.

(add this to the end of the current description)

This course is designed for seniors as an alternative to taking precalculus but who want to have the opportunity to get college credit. Non-seniors should consider registering for Precalculus instead, as it is a prerequisite.

Course Name: College Trigonometry

Prerequisites: no change

Length: no change

Purpose for Proposed Course Description:

Course Description:(current description) Trigonometry topics include trigonometric functions, identities, equations, and applications. In order to receive college credit through BSU, students must have an ACT of 22 or higher.

(add this to the end of the current description)

This course is designed for seniors as an alternative to taking precalculus but who want to have the opportunity to get college credit. Non-seniors should consider registering for Precalculus instead, as it is a prerequisite for any Edina High School Calculus class.

DROP COURSE

Valley View and South View Middle School

Department: Science

Course Name: Compacted Science 6

What considerations lead to this drop request?

The proposal is to have all 6th grade students take a common science experience in 6th grade and then in 7th grade starting in 2026-2027 Compacted Science will occur in 7th grade only. Compacted 7th grade students will have 7th and 8th grade Science compacted into one year, preparing students to take Physical Earth Science in 8th grade if they chose to do so in this pathway.

By having all students take Science 6 students will have a common middle school science experience prior to entering a compacted pathway. This will provide equitable access to the Compacted Science Pathway including new to Edina students. Teachers will provide low stakes compacted experiences to all students through Flex Time throughout the year.

Additional changes will include a change in the class description for the 7th Grade Compacted Science course in 2026-2027.

Edina High School

Department: Social Studies

Course Name: Contemporary Issues

What considerations lead to this drop request?

Repeated lack of enrollment and other additions to the Social Studies offerings. Because it is an elective course, EHS Social Studies teachers would like to not list it for next year with the possibility of bringing it back in the future in case we would ever need an additional place to house standards.

Department: Math

Course Name: Discrete Math Concepts

What considerations lead to this drop request?

It has only had enough students to run it once in the last 5 years. It was an elective class that didn't touch on many standards. The standards that it did cover are also covered in Algebra 2 and Precalculus.

Course Name: Discrete Math Applications

What considerations lead to this drop request?

There are not enough students to run it most years. It was an elective class that didn't touch on many standards. The standards that it did cover are also covered in Algebra 2 and Precalculus.

Appendix A: TENTATIVE BUDGET PROPOSALS

The following budget requests are all being reviewed in collaboration with Teaching Staff, Teaching and Learning, and DMTS. They reflect new costs. Final budget decisions will all be made with the lens of ensuring a rigorous and engaging experience for students and fiscal responsibility. The chart below gives a general overview of what is considered in the course request or change proposal process and does not reflect final budget decisions at this time. Final budget decisions will be communicated with teachers and administration in response to their requests between February and April of 2024.

COURSE TITLE	SCHOOL	COST IN HOURS	COST IN MATERIALS	Estimated Total Cost
Unified FACS	SV & VV	Curriculum = 20 hours x 3 teachers Approximately \$3,600	Technology: No new costs ----- Curriculum/Materials: \$ Same needs as FACS ----- On-going Consumable: \$ Same needs as FACS	\$3,600 in new costs for curriculum writing
Intro to Statistics	EHS	Curriculum = 20 hours x 1 teacher Approximately \$1,200	Technology: ----- Curriculum/Materials: \$15,000 (text books) ----- On-going Costs:	\$16,200 in new costs for curriculum writing and text books
Intro to Data Science	EHS	Curriculum = 20 hours x 1 teacher Approximately \$1,200	Technology: No new costs ----- Curriculum/Materials: No new cost ----- On-going Consumable: No new costs	\$1,200 in curriculum writing
Business	EVP	Curriculum = 24 hours x 1 teacher Approximately \$1,440	Technology: No new costs ----- Curriculum/Materials: No new cost ----- On-going Consumable: No new costs	\$1,440 in curriculum writing
Broadcast Journalism		Curriculum = 24 hours x 1 teacher Approximately \$1,200 ----- Program Visits = 2 substitute teacher days	Technology: \$20,000 to \$40,000 ----- Curriculum: \$ ----- On-going Consumable: \$	

		Approximately \$500		<p><i>*We are currently collaborating on how to support the costs of this incredible opportunity. Mr. Amborn is working with a potential donor while DMTS is collaborating to more completely understand start up costs, as well as sustainability costs.</i></p> <p><i>T & L capital cannot contribute for the 25-26 or 26-27 school year but could potentially into the future. DMTS may be able contribute some dollars to capital technology costs in 25-26 but not the entire amount.</i></p>
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