



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

October 7, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: 9.1

TOPIC: Proposed Secondary Credit Changes for the 2011-12 School Year

BACKGROUND: Based on a study of the new Minnesota Academic Standards for Science, the testing schedules associated with the standards, and alignment work of the Science Curriculum Review Committee, a recommendation for an increase in grades 7-12 science credits was brought to district administration.

PROCESS: For many years, FLAS has had fewer science requirements at the junior high level when compared with other Minnesota school districts. With changes in standards, it has become difficult to place standards and address them adequately within the current schedule and credit requirement. At the high school, the Science Curriculum Review Team also identified the need for an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ credit of science to meet the standards.

The proposal involves increasing the science requirements at the junior high by a $\frac{1}{2}$ credit and at the senior high by a $\frac{1}{2}$ credit. It is also proposed to increase the electives available in 8th and 9th grade and at the high school.

With the addition of any credits, other requirements will be taken away. A proposal that included increasing science credits at the Jr. High and High School while decreasing elective requirements at the Jr. High and High School was brought forward for Board consideration at the September 2, 2010, meeting. A second proposal is coming forth at the October 7, 2010, School Board meeting.

The proposed changes will be reflected in Policy 613, Graduation Requirements. Changes in language will be discussed at the upcoming Policy Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: Second reading of proposed credit changes at the secondary level. Included in this reading is a second proposed credit change option and supplementary documents from various secondary departments. Those documents are included on the following pages.

10/1/2010	7th grade	Option A	Option B (Change from Option)
	Current	Option A	Option B (Change from Option)
	Math	1 credit	1 credit
	Science	.5 credit	1 credit
	Language and Social studies	1 credit	1 credit
	PE/Health	1 credit	1 credit
	Agriculture	0 credit	0 credit
	Art	.25 credit	.25 credit
	Business	.25 credit	.25 credit
	FACS	.25 credit	.25 credit
	Ind. Tech.	.25 credit	.25 credit
	Music	1 credit	0.5
	World Lang.	0 credit	0
	Electives	0 credit	0
	Reading	0 credit	0.5

10/1/2010	9th grade	Option A	Option B (No Change from Option)
	Current	Option A	Option B (No Change from Option)
	Math	1 credit	1 credit
	Science	1 credit	1 credit
	Language and Social studies	1 credit	1 credit
	PE/Health	1 credit	1 credit
	Agriculture	.5 credit	.5 credit
	Art	0 credit	0 credit
	Business	0 credit	0 credit
	FACS	.25 credit or	0 credit
	Ind. Tech.	.25 credit	0 credit
	Music	0 credit	0 credit
	The Arts	(1 elective credit needed 9-12)	
	World Lang.	0 credit	0 credit
	Electives	2 credits	2.5 credits

10/1/2010	8th grade	Option A	Option B (No Change from Option)
	Current	Option A	Option B (No Change from Option)
	Math	1 credit	1 credit
	Science	1 credit	1 credit
	Language and Social studies	1 credit	1 credit
	PE/Health	1 credit	1 credit
	Agriculture	0 credit	0 credit
	Art	.25 credit	0 credit
	Business	0 credit	0 credit
	FACS	.25 credit	0 credit
	Ind. Tech.	0 credit	0 credit
	Music	0 credit	0 credit
	World Lang.	0 credit	0 credit
	Electives	1.5 credits	2 credits

10/1/2010	Grades 10-12	Option A	Option B (Change from Option)
	Current	Option A	Option B (Change from Option)
	Math	2 credits	2 credits
	Science	2 credits	2.5 credits
	Language and Social studies	3 credits	3 credits
	PE/Health	3 credits	2.5 credits
	Agriculture	1 credit	1 credit
	Art	0 credit	0 credit
	Business	0 credit	0 credit
	FACS	0 credit	0 credit
	Ind. Tech.	0 credit	0 credit
	Music	0 credit	0 credit
	The Arts	(1 elective credit needed 9-12)	
	World Lang.	0 credit	0 credit
	Electives	7 credits	7.5 credits

10/1/2010 9th-12th grade requirements			
	Current	Option A	Option B (Change from Option A)
Math	3 credit	3 credit	3 credit
Science	3 credit	3.5 credit	3.5 credit
Language art	4 credit	4 credit	4 credit
Social studies	4 credit	3.5 credit	3.5 credit
PE/Health	1.5 credit	1.5 credit	1.5 credit
Agriculture	0 credit	0 credit	0 credit
Art	0 credit	0 credit	0 credit
Business	.25 credit	0 credit	0 credit
FACS	.25 credit or	0 credit	0 credit
Ind. Tech.	.25 credit	0 credit	0 credit
Music	0 credit	0 credit	0 credit
The Arts	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit
World Lang.	0 credit	0 credit	0 credit
Electives	9 credits	9.5 credits	10 credits
Credits for Graduation	26/28	26/28	26.5/28



Agricultural Education Department

Robert Marzolf – Agricultural Education Teacher
Michael Miron – Agricultural Education Teacher
Veronica Ward – Agricultural Education Teacher

Ms Jennifer Tolzman
Director of Teaching & Learning
Forest Lake Area Schools
6100 North 210th Street
Forest Lake, MN 55025

September 9, 2010

Dear Jennifer:

With current proposed changes before the Board of Education in science requirements, and the subsequent credit adjustments for required electives, we are seeking permission to draft a Grade 8 “AgriScience” course offering. We would suggested that this class be offered as an elective of choice, but also believe that we can complement the objectives of the Science Curriculum Review team to enhance science literacy and comprehension. Agriculture provides an applied context by which to teach science standards and we would engaged students in practical techniques of the emerging technology taking place in the agricultural industry.

During the last curriculum review cycle, the Agricultural Education department aliened several Grade 10-12 courses to meet elective science graduation requirements. This process was facilitated using the Center for Agricultural and Environmental Research and Training (CAERT) system. Minnesota Agricultural Education teachers have access to the CAERT curriculum which offers an integrated online system to plan, document, deliver, and assess educational instruction. The system includes standards-based lesson plans and PowerPoint Presentations, Student Content E-units, and Assessments. Teachers can select from any or all Minnesota Science Standards and Benchmarks to determine which lessons would meet each area. These lessons are then accompanied by assessments which can also measure competency on each standard or specific benchmark to track improvement and predict future success. As we begin year one of the Curriculum Review Cycle, we would propose that we use the same process in developing an 8th Grade “AgriScience” course.

The Agricultural Education Advisory Board has, since the last curriculum review, recommended the development of an 8th Grade offering. This recommendation was based evidence collected from other Minnesota Agricultural Education programs which were adding classes at the middle school level. Currently, the Agricultural Education Department does not have access to students prior to Grade 9. Agriculture continues to be a growing and progressive career area with opportunities in science, business, entrepreneurship, engineering, and other core STEM goals. The proposed “AgriScience” course would allow our department to play a role in improving science learner outcomes while providing increased access and choice to students wishing to engage in the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources career pathway. Furthermore, students enrolled in the 8th Grade would then be eligible for career development, personal growth and leadership opportunities available through FFA membership.

We would appreciate confirmation of this request and if we can answer any questions or concerns please let us know. We look forward to the opportunity of meeting with you at your earliest convenience and working cooperatively. Thank you for your continued support of the agricultural education program and its students.

Sincerely,

Robert Marzolf

Veronica Ward

Michael Miron

Cc: Dr. Steve Massey, Dr. Ben Lewis, Mr. Marc Peterson , & Agriculture Advisory Board members

Andrew Miron
President

Ryan Rehbein
Vice President

Rachael Anderson
Secretary

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Parliamentarian

Abbi Miller
Historian

Alex Murdock
Officer at Large

October 1st 2010

Dear School Board Members,

Soon you will be asked to approve a proposal to add more science to the Junior High and High School curriculums. I urge you to take the following into consideration when choosing which proposal to approve:

All children deserve access to a quality education that will provide them with the 21st century skills needed to prepare for college, career and life. Research has proven that learning in and through the arts engages students, supports different learning styles and hones positive work habits. The arts play a crucial role in promoting habits that cultivate curiosity, imagination, creativity and innovation. Arts learning supports the mastery of critical thinking and problem solving -- skills that are crucial to developing well-rounded adults who are able to compete in an ever-changing, global economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Laura Anton
Art Teacher and Art Department Chair
Forest Lake Area Learning Center
Forest Lake, MN 55025
651-487-0882
lanton@forestlake.k12.mn.us

October 1, 2010

Business Department Statement to the School Board on Credit Change Issue

The Business Department understands that there is a need to include more science into the schedule in order to prepare students for the future. On the same topic we would like to state that there is an equal importance to continue to train students for the future of technology. With the growing concern to prepare students with 21st Century skills there needs to be a concern with the time spent in the classroom on these skills.

The Business Department feels that it is important to maintain the credit for a business class at the 9th grade level. In this course we plan on training students for the academic challenges they will face at the high school. This will be the one opportunity that they will have to learn in a class how to work with google apps and other open sources. As the focus at the high school moves to technology programs such as google apps, Moodle, and web site development we feel that it is important to give the students the tools to be face these demands.

One of the elements at the high school that the Business Department feels the proudest of being a part of is the development of the on-line program. The skills that the students gain from these experiences not only transfer to college readiness, but also can be transferred into everyday life activities. We feel that early skill development in the area of technology prepares the students for high school and also for a future in any area or field.

We also feel strongly that in our practical world students need technology and common financial and business sense. We feel cutting the technology requirement in 9th grade will limit many students. The high school is planning on going to Google Apps, will all students be ready? The 9th grade requirement gives ALL STUDENTS the base to have success in high school and their future.

Elective areas (Agriculture - Art - Business - Family and Consumer Science - Industrial Technology) All offering a 7th grade course at .25 credits - 7th grade students would be required to take 4 of the 5 courses offered in order to meet a full credit in the elective areas. This would still allow Science to be offered at 1.0 credit for the 7th grade year and Music at .5 for the year. This really needs to be about student choice and getting them in to experience career /interest opportunities in all avenues.

Leslie Heidel
Family and Consumer Sciences
Forest Lake Area High School
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Industrial Technology Department

The Impact of Industrial Technology
and Forest Lake Area Schools

- The purpose of this power-point is to illustrate the need for all Industrial Technology courses currently offered/required for Forest Lake Students
- All required junior high courses provide a link to the high school courses, which in turn help students with their post graduate careers

Junior High Required Courses

- 7th Grade Transportation Systems (.25 credit)
- 7th Grade Communication Systems (.25 credit)
- 9th Grade Design and Architecture (.25 credit)
 - The September 2nd proposal would likely eliminate 7th Grade Communication and 9th Grade Design and Architecture
 - Proposed Credit change would only allow for .25 required credits for students in the future

Junior High Electives

- 8th-9th Grade Manufacturing (.25 credit)
- 8th-9th Grade Power & Energy (.25 credit)
- 9th Grade Woods (.5 credit)
- 9th Grade Metals (.5 credit)

Senior High Electives

FLHS Industrial Technology

Course Flow Chart

	Auto	Power	Electronics	Metals	Drafting	Woods	Carpentry		
Basic	Power Mech 1	Power Mech 1	Electricity Electronics 1	Intro to Metal	Intro	Arch 1	Wood 1	Carp 1	Wood 1
	Auto Tech	Power Mech 2	Electricity Electronics 2	Welding	Machine Tool	CAD 1	Arch 2	Wood 2	Carp 2
	Ind Study			Fabrication	CAD 2	Arch 3	Wood 3		

Autos and Small Engines Track

7th Grade
Transportation
Systems
(required)

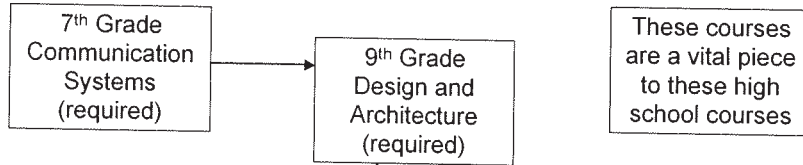
This course is a
vital piece to
these high
school courses

FLHS Industrial Technology

Course Flow Chart

	Auto	Power	Electronics	Metals	Drafting	Woods	Carpentry		
Basic	Power Mech 1	Power Mech 1	Electricity Electronics 1	Intro to Metal	Intro	Arch 1	Wood 1	Carp 1	Wood 1
	Auto Tech	Power Mech 2	Electricity Electronics 2	Welding	Machine Tool	CAD 1	Arch 2	Wood 2	Carp 2
	Ind Study			Fabrication	CAD 2	Arch 3	Wood 3		

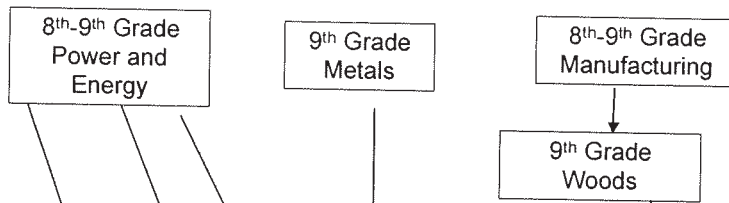
Pre-Engineering Track



FLHS Industrial Technology Course Flow Chart

	Auto	Power	Electronics	Metals	Drafting	Woods	Carpentry
Basic	Power Mech 1	Power Mech 1	Electronics Electronics 1	Intro to Metal	Intro Arch 1	Wood 1	Carp 1 Wood 1
	Auto Tech	Power Mech 2	Electronics Electronics 2	Welding Machine Tool	CAD 1 Arch 2	Wood 2	Carp 2
Ind Study				Fabrication	CAD 2 Arch 3	Wood 3	

Junior High Electives



FLHS Industrial Technology Course Flow Chart

	Auto	Power	Electronics	Metals	Drafting	Woods	Carpentry
Basic	Power Mech 1	Power Mech 1	Electronics Electronics 1	Intro to Metal	Intro Arch 1	Wood 1	Carp 1 Wood 1
	Auto Tech	Power Mech 2	Electronics Electronics 2	Welding Machine Tool	CAD 1 Arch 1	Wood 2	Carp 2
Ind Study				Fabrication	CAD 2 Arch 3	Wood 3	

These courses are a vital piece to these high school courses

What do electives and required classes provide?

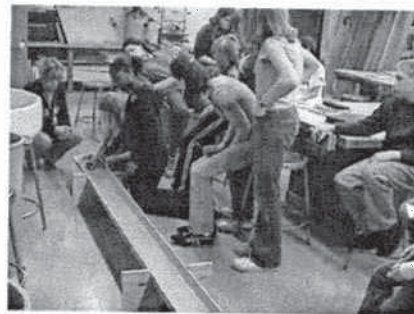
- By having the required classes, each student in Forest Lake has the balanced exposure to Industrial Technology.
- The electives and required classes combined in the junior and senior highs provide exposure to skills necessary as citizens, and the base of knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- According to the current Ramp-up to Readiness, today's student's should start their career planning in the 7th grade
- STEM and the Industrial Technology Department are a major part of the 2010 Bond Question

Science



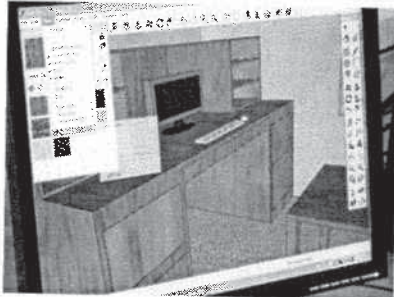
8th-9th Grade
Power and
Energy

Leverage and
Calculations
are a major
part of the
Power and
Energy Class



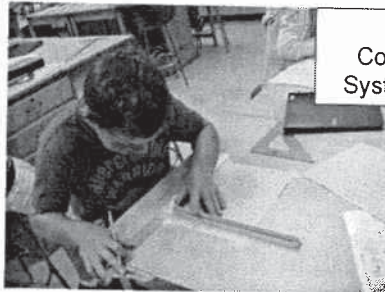
7th Grade
Transportation Boat
Design and
Calculation

Technology

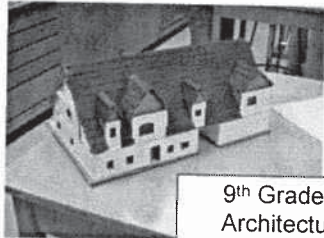
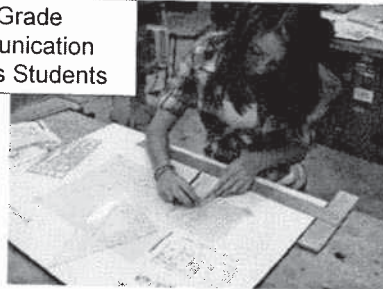


This is 7th Grade
Communication
Student designed his
dream house using
Google Sketch-up

Engineering



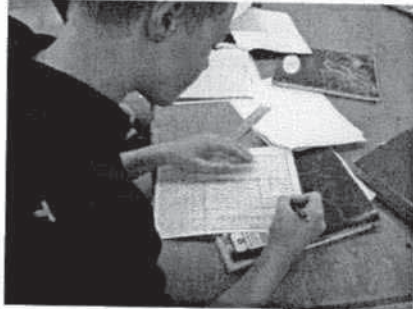
7th Grade
Communication
Systems Students



9th Grade Design and
Architecture Students



Math



Industrial Technology is the application of skills. These students are applying math skills to the projects they are completing.

Courses which face elimination

- 7th Grade Communications
 - Vital Component to the Pre-Engineering structure of the Industrial Technology Department
 - Only required class at the 7th Grade level that illustrates, measuring, engineering, design, drafting and critical problem solving
- 9th Grade Design and Architecture
 - Only required class where students are designing, scaling, and building a model house. This class allows students to be Architects in their 9th grade year of school

- Questions/Comments

- Phil Sundblad-Industrial Technology District Chair

- 651-982-8742

- psundblad@forestlake.k12.mn.us



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Principal..... Steve Massey
Assistant Principal..... James Caldwell
Assistant Principal..... Kathy Ungerecht
Activities Director..... Joel Olson
Dean..... Travis Gjerner
Dean..... Jason Gornion
Dean..... Penny Baker

August 31, 2010

Dear Jennifer,

In light of the new increase of .5 credits in Science, Social Studies is requesting that the overall graduation requirement be increased from 26 to 26.5 credits as an alternative to removing required .5 elective credits from Social Studies. Our rationale for this is that since the state has created a need for increased science curriculum, we feel that we also need to increase our rigor throughout the high school. We support the increased expectations for science, but we also feel strongly that we should not decrease our expectations in any other fields. Although you may have already considered this possibility, we feel we could provide some additional insight as to why this would be the best option for Forest Lake students.

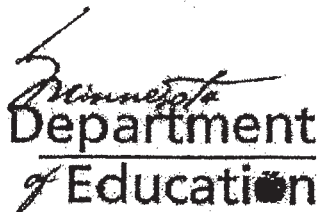
- Increased expectations from the state should translate to increased expectations from our district.
 - While this would place us near the higher end of required credits compared to our competing conference schools, we would by no means be the highest.
 - Currently 93.48% of students are already graduating with at least 26.5 credits.
- In order to continue to provide a broad-based liberal arts education, we need to maintain student exposure to a more varied social sciences curriculum.
 - If the elective credit is removed, many of our students will leave the district experiencing less than half of the social science fields.
 - Introduction to these elective fields could spark a career interest or lifelong passion
 - Maintaining the .5 elective credits encourages students to investigate the social sciences beyond the minimal requirements of the state.
 - Colleges and our community expect Forest Lake students to be competent and well-rounded in the social sciences in order to be informed and active citizens in the 21st century.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter. We welcome the opportunity to speak to you further about this issue.

Respectfully,
Forest Lake High School Social Studies Department

Inspire the learner; ignite the potential!

Forest Lake Area Schools • Independent School District 831 • Equal Opportunity Employer and Educator



Academic Excellence

Social Studies

Social Studies

Social Studies is the study of **history, humanities** and the **social sciences**. The purpose of studying these disciplines is to prepare young people to become responsible citizens and develop social understanding. Social studies standards and curriculum build four capacities in young people: disciplinary knowledge, disciplinary skills, commitment to democratic values, and citizen participation.

Annual United States Senate Youth Program in Washington, D.C. Scheduled: March 5-12, 2011

Established in 1962 by U.S. Senate Resolution, the program offers two student leaders from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity an all expense paid week in Washington experiencing their national government in action. Expenses provided courtesy of the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Students will visit Capitol Hill, the White House, Supreme Court, Pentagon and State Department and meet with the highest-level officials from each branch of government. Each will be awarded a \$5,000 College scholarship for undergraduate studies. For additional information, visit the U.S. Senate Youth Website. The application is available below or contact Paul Hoffman at 651-634-2738.

Update on the Social Studies Standards

The revision of the *Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards for Social Studies* is tentatively scheduled to begin in the fall of 2010 and continue into the spring of 2011. Changes to the social studies standards will come from public input and the creation of a standards committee composed of K-12 and postsecondary educators, administrators, parents, and business representatives. Some changes to be applied to the new standards are:

- Grade-specific standards instead of grade-banded standards (i.e., Economics for K-3). High school standards are the one exception, as these standards will be arranged by grade band.
- Standards related to college and career readiness, technology and information literacy skills, and content related to the contributions of Minnesota's American Indian people.

Minnesota's Academic Standards in Social Studies

Minnesota adopted new history and social studies standards in 2004 with an unprecedented level of public input and involvement. Receiving some of the Fordham Foundation's highest marks for their content and instructional focus, Minnesota was among only eight states to win "A" grades overall. The K-12 Minnesota Academic Standards in History and Social Studies define a common foundation of knowledge and skills in United States history, world history, Minnesota history, geography, economics, and government and citizenship. The standards are available below in Word and PDF formats.

A curriculum and assessment alignment form is now available for Social Studies. This form can be used by schools and online learning providers to document alignment with the standards. An example form is also available to help you get started.

Graduation Requirements

Students who began 9th grade in the 2004-05 school year or later must successfully complete three and one-half credits of social studies encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics --or-- three credits of social studies encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history and one-half credit of economics taught in a school's social studies, business, or agricultural education department.

Providing Services