



GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10

DATE OF MEETING: November 18, 2014

TITLE: Approval of New Courses for Middle and Elementary Schools

BACKGROUND:

As we work to plan the upcoming 2015-16 school year, we would like the Board to consider adding two courses, one at the elementary and one at the middle school level.

Middle School:

Based on the growing field of computer science, we believe it would be to our students' advantage to begin acquiring the skills necessary to program. While we understand that the "languages" of computers changes, the thinking skills required to design a successful program remain the same. Nearly every facet of employment has a growing computational component. The sciences are an obvious realm, but this component is even expanding into as diverse a field as the arts. This course would be offered as a semester class to middle school students.

Elementary School:

In a world that has an increasingly global focus and with the largest percentage of Spanish speakers in the world located in the Western Hemisphere, we would like to propose that Amphi begin to offer Spanish in the elementary schools. While all the specifics to the program are still in development, we are seeking the Board's approval to proceed knowing there will be implications in the middle school and high school programs in the years to come as more students acquire second language skills starting in the elementary levels. We will continue to update the Board as progress is made in the design of the program.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Administration recommends the Governing Board approve these new courses.

INITIATED BY:

Monica Nelson, Associate Superintendent

Date: November 12, 2014

Patrick Nelson, Superintendent