

## **Curriculum Report - September 2020**

### **Edgenuity**

With scheduling challenges presented by the Covid-19 response in providing instruction at multiple risk levels combined with full-day versus half-day attendance at various sites, creating and implementing a VTC schedule was problematic this year. In response, Mr. Becker approached the Superintendent and the then Associate Superintendent about offering a limited number of core courses through an online platform called Edgenuity. Additionally, the district has since received notice that Alaska Digital Academy will not be accepting new students this year.

Most of the coursework is presented by recorded video and the navigation is very intuitive. It requires an active, full-time internet connection. Teachers at sites will be responsible for monitoring/encouraging progress. The program collects student responses and work samples as well as tracking usage by time, place, and device. Currently Mr. Becker is the Teacher of Record for Outer Site students enrolled in these courses and has been and will continue to make site visits to conference with students..

The intention is that teachers will teach the subjects that are their strength (for example ELA and Social Studies) in person from their own plans and resources and use the Edgenuity course(s) for their weaknesses (for example Math and Science). Courses currently available are: Geometry, Algebra 2, World History, British Literature, and Physical Science. Currently Mr. Becker is the Teacher of Record for Outer Site students enrolled in these courses.

The district expected to receive access to its customized platform approximately August 25th but was informed that due to heavy demand created by schools nationwide moving to this platform the due date was extended to September 9th (the time of this report) and is still unfulfilled. When the customized platform becomes available courses will be modified for the amount and focus of content. In the interim, Mr. Becker is providing students with activities through IXL and Teachers Pay Teachers.

### **Curriculum Reviews and Course Descriptions**

An upcoming task for Mr. Becker will be performing curriculum reviews for Grades 9-12 English Language Arts and for Grades K-12 Science. The work that a similar committee did last spring in outlining the resources, units, and objectives for K-8 English Language Arts has already paid major dividends in providing new or reassigned staff teachers with a clear outline - allowing them to provide core instruction from day 1. Dates and committee members have yet to be established.

An even larger task will be the creation of Course Descriptions for the four core areas: ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies. (See example below.) As people must understand something before they can create beyond it; these descriptions will provide not only a base for those new to teaching or unfamiliar with a given subject area, but a set of expectations for more imaginative and experienced teachers to reference for ideas and activities.

### Example Course Description from SW Region Schools

*Adopted May 2011, Updated 2017*

<b>Course Description — English I</b>	
<b>Course Name</b>	English I (S1) & (S2)
<b>Course Number</b>	LAN101S1 & LAN101S2
<b>Length of Course</b>	One Year (2 Semesters)
<b>Grade Level</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade
<b>Credit Type</b>	1.0 Credit – Language Arts – REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION
<b>Course Prerequisite(s)</b>	None
<b>Course Description</b>	<p>The English I class will provide all students an opportunity to focus on communication skills, particularly the areas of reading, listening, writing, and speaking, in a variety of formats. Writing elements have been identified as core objectives at each grade level. The student focus is on developing specific skills to build on each year. Students read a variety of texts of various genres as selected from the approved lists.</p> <p>This course incorporates the fundamentals of speech and language procedures and common grammar. The course skills will be applied directly to what the student will need to know to be a successful communicator in today's modern world in addition to preparation for post-secondary training and education.</p> <p>The course contains an emphasis on literature, reading and writing. The course will explore the improvement of reading skills, both technical and literary. The course will improve writing skills in the context of responding to reading, expository writing, narratives, and a variety of genres in communication in a variety of formats.</p>

