

Geneva High School

Memorandum

To: Board of Education
From: Doug Drexler
Date: November 13th, 2023
Re: GHS New and Modified Courses for 2024-2025
Cc: Dr. Barrett, Mrs. Sims, Dr. Petmezas

Although it seems as if the current school year is just getting underway, we have already been planning for the 2024-2025 school year. We are recommending two new courses as well as relatively minor modifications to seven existing courses. These recommendations are unlikely to require significant changes in staffing, space, or materials. All of these changes will better enable us to meet the continually evolving needs of our students.

To date, these new and modified course proposals have been reviewed by the GHS Department Chairs, Building Leadership Team, Building Administration, Secondary Principals, and the Administrative Cabinet. We await your approval before allowing students to register for these courses.

Just to keep you informed, we have been engaged in ongoing conversations with both Waubensee Community College and College of DuPage regarding aligning additional existing GHS courses with their counterparts at the community college level. We are happy to report that agreements have been reached for the following existing GHS courses to be designated as Dual Credit, effective for the current school year:

- Advanced Earth Science: Natural Disasters (WCC)
- Advanced GTV Broadcasting (COD)
- Astronomy (WCC)
- Horticulture (COD)
- Modern Mass Media (COD)

Additionally, we will be offering students the option to take the existing Driver Education course during the Early Bird period beginning with the 2024-25 school year. This will help meet student demand, and students taking Early Bird Driver Education will be able to sustain seven classes during the regular school day.

These proposed changes were presented at the October 23rd Board of Education meeting and formal approval is required for these changes to be incorporated into our course selection documents. Approval is recommended

Proposals to Modify Existing Courses

Department:	Course:	Summary of Proposed Change:	Anticipated Materials and Training Costs:
Business	Applied Technology	Rename this course as "Computer Applications". This new course title is more reflective of the content of the course.	None
Math	Discrete Math 2	Rename this course as "Quantitative Literacy and Statistics". Counterintuitively, the prerequisite for Discrete Math 2 is not Discrete Math 1. This has created some confusion in the past among students and parents, which this name change should eliminate.	None
Math	Discrete Math 1	Rename this course as "Discrete Math". In the absence of a Discrete Math 2 course, the "1" can be dropped from the course title.	None
Science	Advanced Earth Science: Natural Disasters	Currently this course is open to juniors and seniors. This change will allow sophomores to take the course if they meet the prerequisites and secure permission from the department chair.	None
Science	Astronomy	Currently this course is open to juniors and seniors. This change will allow sophomores to take the course if they meet the prerequisites and secure permission from the department chair.	None
Science	Chemistry/ Physics	Currently this combined chemistry and physics course is open to juniors and seniors. This change will allow sophomores to take the course if they meet the prerequisites and secure permission from the department chair.	None
Social Studies	Advanced Placement (AP) Macro-Economics	Add a course prerequisite of either Algebra 2 or the standard Economics course before taking AP Macroeconomics. Fall 2023 is the first time this course has been offered, and students who have not yet completed Algebra 2 are struggling with some of the math embedded in the course.	None

Proposals for New Courses

Department:	Course:	Summary of Proposed Change:	Anticipated Materials and Training Costs:
Music	Advanced Placement (AP) Music Theory	Combine the existing semester-long Music Theory 3 and Music Theory 4 courses into a full year of Advanced Placement (AP) Music Theory. Over the past few years, the curriculum in Music Theory 3 and 4 has already become very closely aligned to the AP course, so only minor changes will be needed to fully adopt the AP curriculum. We have been working on developing multiple music electives that will appeal to students already in our instrumental and vocal music programs, as well as non-music students; adopting AP Music Theory is part of this developing plan.	\$3,000
Wellness	Walking for Wellness	This first semester course will be open to juniors and seniors and will allow students to utilize walking as a pathway to achieving their health and fitness goals. Walking is an activity that can provide lifelong enjoyment as well as cardiovascular benefits. The class will take place primarily outdoors, dependent on the weather. Technology will be incorporated to set training goals, monitor heart rate, and track progress. Additional components of this course will include route planning, safety, and basic injury prevention/treatment.	None