



GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10

DATE OF MEETING: November 17, 2015

TITLE: Approval of New High School Courses or Name Changes for 2016-17 School Year

BACKGROUND:

The high school principals have submitted several new courses that could be added to their master schedules for next year if they have sufficient student enrollment and staffing FTE. They are listed below along with a brief explanation of each:

Amphi High School would like to offer a **Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)** Career and Technical Education (CTE) program beginning next fall. Current industry labor market data shows a need for qualified HVAC technicians not only in the Tucson area but also across the state and nation. The program will prepare students to apply technical knowledge and skills to repair, install, service, and maintain the operating conditions of heating and air conditioning systems. They will learn diagnostic techniques, the use of testing equipment, and the principles of mechanics, electricity, and electronics as they relate to the repair of both systems. CTE funding will be used to purchase required tools, specialty equipment, computers. The coming year will see our CTE program offer Level I of this course which will have to expand during the 2017-18 school year to include HVAC II, followed in 2018-19 by an HVAC Intern program.

Last year, you may recall, the Board approved a new CTE course at both IRHS and AHS to reflect changes in content taught in engineering. This change reflected the addition of course offerings at the middle school as well in content changes addressing the beginning course of the CTE Engineering program sequence. The approved course was called Pathways to Engineering. This year, the CTE Department is requesting a name change for this course, proposing it be called **Introduction to Engineering Design**. The course itself will continue to introduce various types of engineering including Biomedics, Robotics, Automation, and Computer Aided Drafting with creative problem solving and hands on application

A third CTE based request addresses a new course. All three high schools have Information Technology (Software Design and Web Page Development) CTE programs. This new course being requested is **AP Computer Science Principles**. This is a new course offering by The College Board in the 2016-17 school year and will be integrated into the Information Technology course sequence as an option for the first level of the CTE program. This course will introduce students to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenge them to explore how computing and technology can impact the real world. With a unique focus on creative problem solving and applications, this course will prepare students for the other classes in the Information Technology sequence.

The enrollment in the band program at Amphi High has increased significantly in the last three years, growing from 23 students enrolled to 64 currently enrolled. Students are asking to join on a regular basis; because of the school's high mobility rate, many of these students have had no musical background prior to enrolling at AHS. A **Beginning Band** program will provide a venue for students who wish to be part of the band program but who have no prior musical experience. The Beginning Band will offer a first full-year of music instruction on instruments. The class members will develop skills on a variety of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Emphasis will be on providing a strong, fundamental approach to playing. Rehearsal from a required music text will be daily activity as well as developmental music theory.

Canyon del Oro would like to offer a **Small Ensembles** music class. They have identified a need to provide students with an outlet for small chamber music. This class will allow student musicians of all instruments to form small performance groups. Not only will this kind of class organization include the typical high school musician, it also can reach those musicians who might not otherwise have an outlet to perform with others. Students enrolled in Small Ensembles will learn to work with other musicians to rehearse and perform music

in a small group setting. Students will learn about the background and context of various genres of music while gaining an understanding of how to work with others toward a common goal.

CDO would also like to offer a course called **AP Physics I** (mechanics – algebra based). This course would target sophomores who are on an AP track and pre-International Baccalaureate sophomores. This would be an additional weighted science course offered to sophomores. The CDO administration puts forth this request to showcase increased rigor in a student’s course history. AP Physics I is the equivalent of the first semester of an introductory, algebra-based college physics course. The course requires that 25% of the instructional time be spent in hands-on laboratory work. Students taking AP Physics I need to be concurrently enrolled in Algebra II or its equivalent.

The **Middle School Algebra** course (mentioned in a recent Friday Memo) that would carry neither a high school credit nor grade already exists in our master course list and, therefore, needs no further Board action to implement. This course will not count as a high school Algebra I class and can be taught by personnel at the middle school who have a Middle School Math endorsement on their teaching certificate.

Finally, we have been notified that the College Board has changed the name of a course we currently offer from AP Physics Mechanics to **AP Physics C: Mechanics**. There are no curricular changes associated with this name change.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is presented for the Board’s approval.

INITIATED BY:



Monica Nelson, Associate Superintendent

Date: November 9, 2015



Patrick Nelson, Superintendent