

Curriculum Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:00 AM

Central Office Conference Room, 24 School Road, Weston, CT 06883-1623

I. **Call to order**

II. **Update on WMS Teaming Model**

III. **Information regarding FY 23 textbook/resource renewals**

- **World Language**
- **Social Studies**
- **Science**

IV. **Information regarding FY 23 professional development planning**

V. **Update regarding WHS field trip to Festival Disney March 3-7, 2022**

VI. **Approval of December 2021 minutes**

VII. **Other curricular issues**

Weston Middle School Teaming Model

Daniel Doak, Principal
Revised January 12, 2022



Enhancements of Proposed Changes to WMS Schedule



- Return to Pure Teaming Model: ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies
- 50 minute periods for all subjects, all three grades (6-8)
- Academic Workshop replaces quiet study with instructional time
- Focus on development of critical skills necessary for academic success
- SRBI interventions, strategies, Project Challenge will be scheduled during Academic Workshop
- Everyday world language in 6th grade

What is Academic Workshop?



- Teachers and students explore content-related themes, in addition to conferencing and one-on-one, small group work with students
- Develop key skills in communication, critical and creative thinking, quantitative problem solving, collaboration

	ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies
6th Grade	Reading/ Writing Conferences	Quantitative Problem solving Consumer Math	Observing Your World: Citizen Scientist	Exploring local issues (Public speaking)
7th Grade	Reading/Writing Conferences	Quantitative Problem Solving Personal Finance	Creating a sustainable world (community service)	Exploring how local Issues impact the world (Debate)
8th Grade	Reading/Writing Conferences	Analyzing Data Probability & Statistics	Applying principles of environmental science	Analyzing contemporary issues (Public presentation)

Sample Student Schedule



Period	Time Block	A Day	B Day
1	7:45-8:35	Math	Math
2	8:39-9:29	Social Studies	Social Studies
3	9:32-10:22	PE / Health	Art / Tech & Eng
	10:26-10:56	Lunch	Lunch
4	11:00-11:50	ELA	ELA
5	11:54-12:44	Band	Academic Workshop (math/ELA/science/social studies)
6	12:47-1:37	Science	Science
7	1:40-2:30	Spanish	Spanish

Sample Teacher Schedule



Period	Time	A Day	B Day
1	7:45-8:35	Math	Math
2	8:39-9:29	Math	Math
3	9:32-10:22	Math Workshop	Prep/Team Meeting
	10:26-10:56	Lunch	Lunch
4	11:00-11:50	Math	Math
5	11:54-12:44	Prep/Team Meeting	Math Workshop
6	12:47-1:37	Math	Math
7	1:40-2:30	Prep/Curricular Partner Time	Prep/Curricular Partner Time

Practical & Fine Arts Block



“Curriculum that is exploratory has potential career value and also leads to healthy recreational and leisure time pursuits that enrich life and help develop well-rounded, self-sufficient adults.”

This We Believe, Keys to Educating Young Adolescents, Association for Middle Level Education.



6th Grade PFA: Current Model

Classes meet every other day for 42 minutes

One trimester each of: **Art**, **Technology Education**, **Health**

Full year: **Music**, **Physical Education**, World Language*

6th Grade PFA: Proposed Model

Classes meet every other day for 50 minutes

One semester each of: **Art**, **Technology Education**

Full year: **Music**, **Workshop Rotation**

Three Quarters: **Physical Education**

One Quarter: **Health**

* In proposed model world language meets every day



7th/8th Grade PFA: Current Model

Classes meet every other day for 42 minutes

One trimester: **Health**

Two trimesters: **Art**

Full year: **Music, Physical Education, Technology Education**

7th/8th Grade PFA: Proposed Model

Classes meet every other day for 50 minutes

One semester each of: **Art, Technology Education**

Full year: **Music, Workshop Rotation**

Three Quarters: **Physical Education**

One Quarter: **Health**

FY 23 Curriculum and Instruction

TEXTBOOK RENEWALS

Book Budget Requests	Amount
Spanish - WHS Levels 1-4 (50 6-yr, 100 1-yr)	\$ 7,300.00
Social Studies - Grade 7 & 8 digital renewal 6 yr	\$ 34,020.00
Math - Algebra 2 - digital textbook renewal 6 yr	\$ 12,720.00
Math - Grade K - digital & consumables 1 yr	\$ 8,000.00
Science - Grades 6-8 digital (Amplify & Gizmos) 3 yr	\$ 21,000.00
Total	\$ 83,040.00

CONSULTING SERVICES

Operating Budget	Amount
Learning Walks & Math Training	\$ 12,000.00
Social-emotional Consulting/Support	\$ 7,000.00
Total	\$ 19,000.00

Title II Grant	Amount
Literacy Training	\$ 12,000.00
Learning Walks & Math Training	\$ 5,000.00
Administrative Evaluation Training	\$ 5,000.00
Social-emotional Consulting/Training	\$ 8,000.00
Total	\$ 30,000.00

Title IV Grant	Amount
Social-emotional Consulting/Training	\$ 10,000.00
Total	\$ 10,000.00

Bennett Student Travel, Inc.

Post Office Box 2205
7188 - Phone
Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420
1579 - Fax

978-342-

978-342-

email:
dougbenett64@hotmail.com

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION PACKET

**To: Elizabeth Morris
Weston High School**

**From Doug Bennett
Bennett Student Travel, Inc.**

Date: April 26, 2021

**Re: Weston High School Music Department
Walt Disney World Trip
March 3-7, 2022**

Enclosed, please find our proposal for coordinating the travel arrangements for the Weston High School Music Department's proposed trip to Walt Disney World in March 2022.

This proposal details how we would accommodate your group while at Walt Disney World. Although we have tried to be as specific as we could with each of the details of your trip, please feel free to contact me at any time about questions that you may have.

Thank you for selecting our company to arrange your upcoming trip to Walt Disney World again. We look forward to working with Weston High School again in 2022.

Please call me at any time if you have any questions.

BENNETT STUDENT TRAVEL, INC.

Post Office Box 2205
Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420

978-342-7188 - Phone
978-342-1579 - Fax
email: dougbennett64@hotmail.com

Weston High School Music Dept. Walt Disney World Trip

March 3-7, 2022

Full Package Includes:

**Bus Transportation from Weston to/from the Airport
Round-Trip Air Fare to/from Orlando, Florida
4 Nights Hotel Accommodations
All Bus Transportation in Florida
4-Day Admission Ticket to Walt Disney World
Performances at Walt Disney World
Disney's Instrumental and Vocal Workshops
4 Breakfasts and 5 Dinners
All Travel Arrangements and Services
All Taxes and Gratuities**

Student Price: \$1543.00 - Quad Occupancy

Note - The prices listed above are estimated for 2022. The final trip prices cannot be set until the airline tickets have been booked and deposited and the final number of students attending the trip has been determined.

Curriculum Committee Meeting

December 8, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

Via Google Meet

Present Committee Members:

Taffy Miller (Chairperson), David Felton, Bernadette Kingsley

Present Administration:

Lisa Wolak, Superintendent; Kenneth Craw, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent; Juliane Givoni, WHS Principal; Dan Doak, WMS Principal; Tracy Edwards, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Jessica DiBuono, CIL 6-12 English Language Arts

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Discussion of WHS New Course for English 12

Discussion:

Ms. DiBuono presented on the proposed revamped English 12 course.

- The proposed course offers a rigorous curriculum that and offers a true choice for students by way of spring semester electives.
- The course will be broken into two semesters. The fall semester will focus on skills-based units. In the spring semester, students will have a choice of a thematic elective course.
- The Committee discussed the logistics of offering the spring electives. Students will rank their interest in the elective options.
- The course is FTE neutral and supplies are estimated to cost about \$900.

3. Update on WMS Teaming Model

Discussion:

Mr. Doak presented on the refinements of the WMS Teaming Model proposal.

- The updated WMS Teaming Model proposes longer (50 minute) academic periods, which is now the longest middle school academic block in the DRG.
- The Academic Workshop block will focus on critical skills necessary for academic success and plays into the portrait of the graduate initiative. Students will have the workshop every other day.
- SRBI interventions and Project Challenge will be scheduled during the Academic Workshop block so that students do not have to miss out on PFA courses.
- All four academic teachers on a team will teach Academic Workshop at the same time. Students will have one discipline workshop per quarter.

- With this new schedule, sixth grade world language will be taught daily (in keeping with the DRG). ELA will be a single block rather than a double block going forward.
- Funds have been budgeted for curriculum development over the summer.

4. Update on WPS Goals

- Healthy Learning Environment
 - School Climate, Social Emotional Well-being, Alternative Pathways

Discussion:

- Ms. Edwards spoke on supports that are in place to address ongoing social-emotional challenges due to the pandemic.
 - The RULER approach is a continued support in the lower schools.
 - Mental health staff is working with families to problem solve on a case-by-case basis.
 - Training and consultation support in dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT) is ongoing for teachers and mental health staff throughout the district.
- Alternative Pathways is a new in-house program that replaced the former Effective School Solutions program at WHS. The program is designed for students who are working through mental health challenges. Students in the program are engaging in both academics and emotional supports and have expressed their appreciation for these supports. Both Ms. Edwards and Ms. Givoni reported that students are thriving in the program.

5. Follow up on Advanced Placement Course Criteria

Discussion:

- Ms. Wolak spoke on advanced placement course access and reported that in analyzing the demographics of students taking the courses, they do not see any discrepancy in access across subgroups.
- Ms. Givoni briefly reviewed the placement request process for students requesting courses that have not been recommended. Each year the administration reviews over 100 requests for waiver.
- The review panel takes into consideration giving a student an opportunity to challenge themselves but is also cognizant of discouraging course overload.

Approval of November 2021 minutes

Motion Passed: Move that the Curriculum Committee approve the November 2021 minutes. This motion, made by Taffy Miller and seconded by David Felton.

3 Yeas – 0 Nays

7. Other curricular issues

Discussion:

No other issues were put forth for discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Curiano