

High School Curriculum Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 26 5:30 pm

Westmer Home Ec Room

- Handout was passed out regarding Mr. Boucher's idea for a Curriculum Council - this was discussed by Mr. Nelson in the full meeting prior to our break-out
- Discussed Goals for HS group - create list of POSSIBLE additions to the curriculum, keeping in mind that the new administration will be making all final decisions based on student interest, teacher interest and ability as well as financial impact
- Discussed Pros and Cons for AP vs. Dual Credit Courses

AP

Able to potentially test out of intro level course in college

Places student into advanced courses in college (for example: take AP Calculus in HS and pass the test, then start freshmen year of college in Calc II)

Cost at least \$75 to take test at end of course, very rigorous

Teacher training is a week long summer session

Dual Credit

Would receive high school and college credit hours for taking course

Would save money on college expenses by taking them in high school

Could look at online and even distance learning courses as options

Teacher must have a masters and we would have to check into what exact degree is needed by Blackhawk to teach a given course

- One concern brought up was getting a teacher recommendation to allow a student to take either an AP or Dual Credit - the counselors stated that at least for Dual Credit, the student would have to pass the COMPASS test from Blackhawk saying they can take it prior to registering for the course
- Karen Jones would really like to see us focus on improving the vocational programs by aligning them with the Vocational Region. If the program is set up correctly some students would possibly earn college credit and there are also funding incentives for tracked programs. Contact Karen for more information
- Discussion about weighted courses. We understand the importance and the concern from parents to have them, but are not sure where to draw the line and determine which courses count for a weighted grade. One example that was brought up, was there could be college bound students in Calculus and might be a weighted course that would really struggle in Welding IV. So, do you weight all senior level courses? That would be up to the new administration to look into further and make the final decision.
- Discussion was held about possible early bird courses and the room space at Aledo High School. The high school counselors spent many hours creating a mock course schedule using the current courses by both districts to show that all students (9 - 12) can fit in the Aledo High School building with the possibility of adding additional courses.
- Final goal created for the high school curriculum is to not lose any current courses and to try to offer one more in each discipline.