

Memo

To: Mr. Paul Zinni
From: Michelle Kreuzer, KPMS Principal
Date: February 23, 2022
Re: Proposed changes to the KPMS Program of Studies, 2022-23

Enclosed are the proposed changes to the King Philip Middle School Program of Studies for 2022-23. Each change is accompanied by a rationale.

UPDATED COURSE NAMES/DESCRIPTIONS

Unified Arts (UA) and Special Courses

Wellness (Grade 7 UA Rotation II; Trimester)

- This is a name change for the course formerly known as “Foundations”. The course description was not changed.

General Music (Grade 7 UA Rotation II; Trimester)

- Added *"During the course, students may engage in a variety of experiences, such as bucket drumming, creating music using technology and exploring popular music genres."*

Literature 7 (Grade 7 UA Rotation II; Trimester)

- The literature course was moved to rotation I to rotation II. The class will now meet every other day rather than every day.

Literature 8 (Grade 8 UA Rotation; Trimester)

- Updated description: *"This course is designed to enhance the literacy experience for all eighth graders and to foster a love of both reading and writing. Its purpose is to introduce and reinforce literacy skills and to immerse students in authentic reading and writing experiences. Comprehension strategies will be taught through teacher read-aloud activities, group reading, plays, nonfiction, and poetry. Participants of this course will learn to discuss literature in a meaningful way with their peers and complete a variety of activities to enhance their comprehension. This class meets every other day."*

RATIONALE: We are updating course names and descriptions to better reflect classroom activities. New curriculum opportunities are being added to general music to better align the course with the creative process required by the MA curriculum standards. Literature 7 has been moved to Rotation II to make room in the schedule for the exploratory world language class.

NEW COURSES

Exploring World Language (Grade 7 UA Rotation I; Trimester)

- Description: *“This course is designed to introduce students to both the French and Spanish languages. The course emphasizes basic listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Completion of Introduction to French and Spanish will allow students to make an informed choice for further study of either French or Spanish in eighth grade. Assessment of student work is based on quizzes, translations, written and oral assignments, and class work. This class meets every day.”*

RATIONALE: This course description was originally approved for the 2021-2022 Program of Studies but did not make the final document due to projected staffing. Due to some changes prior to the start of the school year, we were able to run this course. We would like to add this course description to the 2022-2023 program of studies as part of the grade 7 unified arts rotation.

Speech & Writing (Grade 8 UA Rotation; Trimester)

- Description: *“In this course, students will be introduced to the art of persuasive writing and speech. Students will explore and analyze how speakers and writers can persuade an audience to adopt their point of view. They will learn how to adapt a speech for different occasions and audiences and how to effectively support their ideas. Further, students will have the opportunity to become a better public speaker through practice. This class meets every other day.”*

RATIONALE: This course originally was included as a 7th grade special course option during the 2020-2021 school year. We would like to formally include the course description in the program of studies and move the course to the 8th grade unified arts rotation. Speech and Writing teaches useful skills that students will need to present their ideas effectively in public.