

## NEW ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROCESS

The State Department of Education initiated a new process for tracking and remediating students who either have not or will potentially not pass the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA), which is required for graduation.

An **Educational Proficiency Plan (EPP)** is now required of any student who fails either section of the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA). The EPP documents the specific areas where a student has fallen short on the exams and the steps taken to remediate those skills in time to pass the high school test in the senior year.

This process is a definitive effort to help our students. The process includes retesting and a new appeals process. In addition, receipt of various other assessment scores, including SAT and ACT scores are also expected to be recorded in this plan.

Parent involvement in this process is vital. Regular communication—including in-person conferences—is expected and required in the event an appeal is necessary.



## 2010 CURRICULUM UPDATE

### • FRESHMAN SEMINAR

**Personalized Learning Plan:** The goal for students to plan out their future — through high school and beyond—is was the focus for this portion of the Freshman Seminar course. The online planning tool—NAVIANCE—has been introduced with the expectation that it will be used each year to monitor students' personalized plans.

**Service Learning:** Twelve (12) hours of service were charged to every freshman student. In addition to individual, unique experiences, many students were able to volunteer in school sponsored events to earn service learning hours. "Golden Bytes"—a weekly, after school computer use course for senior citizens is one of the most popular experiences. In addition, nearly forty (40) of the eighty-eight (88) students who participated in our annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day On—Not Off Day of Service, were freshman students. Their service earned each student four (4) hours for the day.

### • Ten other new courses were presented in the 2010 Curriculum Update.

- AP English Literature and Composition
- AP Spanish
- AVID 7
- Chinese III
- Economics / Personal Finance
- Juntos
- History & Politics in the Middle East
- Math Analysis
- Probability & Statistics
- JHS Workplace



## Curriculum Update 2011



## WOODBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Elementary School Curriculum Update

**The Lucy Calkins Writing Project** was introduced to teachers at Evergreen Elementary School last year as a pilot. The results — quality student writing—were so significant that the program has been offered to elementary teachers in all three schools.

### Differentiated Instruction (DI)

DI training expanded to the elementary schools this year for teachers in grades 3 and 4. The response to learning these instructional strategies has been tremendous and instantaneous. What is learned in one session can be, and typically is, implemented when teachers return to the classroom. Our Instructional Assistants have joined the teachers in these training sessions.

### Responsive Classroom (RC)

The research, that children perform best when they have academic and social skills, is substantiated through our efforts to practice RC. Anecdotal evidence that students are better behaved and have improved academic performance can be shared by all of our schools.

### K-2 Math Curriculum

We are currently examining different curricula for K-2 Mathematics in response to the new National Core Standards.

### Social Studies Curriculum Map Revisions

Curriculum Maps for Social Studies continue to be modified to align with the new standards that were presented in 2009.

## Junior High School Update

### Integrated Algebra I:

Every 8th grade student is enrolled in an Integrated Algebra I — high school equivalent course.

### Inclusion:

In response to the Collaborative Assessment for Planning and Achievement (CAPA) Action Plan, our entire sixth grade is operating in a fully inclusive academic day in all core subjects. Seventh and eighth grade self-contained classes have also begun to employ inclusive practices for math and literacy.

### Literacy and Math Support:

Using the guidelines for educational research for assessments; every student performing below or ten points above the proficient score (200) is enrolled in a math and/or literacy support class.

### Schedule:

The 51 minute class period (CAPA Action Plan) provides teachers and students with optimal time—on task' opportunities.



### 6th Grade Special Education Class

Five students formally placed in out-of-district programs joined our regular day program this September. The gains—academically and socially—have been significant and help support our belief that every child deserves to be exposed to the most rigorous instruction we can provide.

## PENDING BOARD APPROVAL

### Art History AP (Credits: 5.0 Full Year)

AP Art History is an introductory college-level course in which students examine major forms of artistic expression from the ancient world to the present and from a variety of cultures. Students learn to look and analyze works of art within their historical contexts, and articulate what they see or experience in a meaningful way. This introductory course covers the various art forms in the following proportions: 40-50% painting and drawing, 25% architecture, 25% sculpture, and 5-10% other media such as, printmaking, photography, ceramics, and fiber arts.

### Chinese 4 HN (5.0 Full Year)

This course continues to build on the development of communication skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will acquire a vocabulary of approximately 1,500 Chinese characters and several thousand phrases by the end of this level.

### Psychology AP (Credits: 5.0 Full Year)

The purpose of the AP course in Psychology is to introduce the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Included is a consideration of the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Students also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.