

**WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**AGENDA\***

(Agenda Subject to Modification in Accordance with Law)

**PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

7:00 p.m., Staples High School, Cafeteria B (Room 301)

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Mr. Thomas Scarice

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION**

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (15 MINUTES)**

**MINUTES:** November 15, 2021, *pages 4-6*

**DISCUSSION**

- 1. Health Report Ms. Suzanne Levasseur
- 2. S/L/A/M Enrollment Projections Mr. Michael Zuba
- 3. FY 2022 Preliminary Budget Discussions with Board of Finance, RTM Education Chair, and Finance Committee Chair Mr. Thomas Scarice  
Mr. Elio Longo
- 4. Town of Westport ARPA Funds Dr. Anthony Buono
- 5. Proposed Course Additions:
  - AP Computer Science, *pages 7-15* (Encl.) Dr. AJ Scheetz
  - Popular Music and Diversity in American Society (UConn), *pages 16-24* Mr. Stephen Zimmerman
- 6. Proposed Board of Education Meeting Dates 2022-2023, *page 25* (Encl.) Mr. Thomas Scarice

**DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- 1. Building Committee for the Staples High School Roof Replacement Project, *page 26* (Encl.) Mr. Elio Longo
- 2. Gifts, *page 27* (Encl.) Mr. Thomas Scarice

**ADJOURNMENT**

\*A 2/3 vote is required to go to executive session, to add a topic to the agenda of a regular meeting, or to start a new topic after 10:30 p.m. The meeting can also be viewed on Cablevision on channel 78; Frontier channel 6021 and by video stream @www.westportps.org

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WELCOME USING THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

- Comment on non-agenda topics will occur during the first 15 minutes *except* when staff or guest presentations are scheduled.
- Board will not engage in dialogue on non-agenda items.
- Public may speak as agenda topics come up for discussion or information.
- Speakers on non-agenda items are limited to 2 minutes each, except by prior arrangement with chair.
- Speakers on agenda items are limited to 3 minutes each, except by prior arrangement with chair.
- Speakers must give name and address, and use microphone.
- Per Board policy, speakers must be town residents or employees
- Responses to questions may be deferred if answers not immediately available.
- Public comment is normally not invited for topics listed for action after having been publicly discussed at one or more meetings.



## WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**THOMAS SCARICE**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

110 Myrtle Avenue  
Westport, Connecticut 06880  
Telephone: (203) 341-1025  
Fax: (203) 341-1029  
tscarice@westportps.org

To: Westport Board of Education Members  
From: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools  
Re: December 6, 2021 Board of Education Meeting  
Date: December 2, 2021

Provided below for Board consideration is an overview of the meeting agenda items for December 6, 2021. The meeting will be held in-person.

### **Discussion**

#### **1. Health Update**

As I mentioned to the school community in a message Wednesday evening, less than one month ago we experienced Covid infection rates that hovered at levels we had not seen since May. Since then, we have experienced an increase in infections in the region and the forecasting of the Omicron variant. Generally speaking, we will continue to consider our mitigating measures in 4-6 week increments.

Supervisor of Health Services, Sue Levasseur, will report the recent trends and she and I will discuss the vaccination efforts in the community. In addition, we will share some of the changes to our mitigating measures including: weekly serial testing, school performances/concerts, vaccination requirements for school visitors, and our “screen and stay” quarantine approach.

#### **2. S/L/A/M Enrollment Projections**

Enrollment projections are a key driver in the short, and long-term, planning of the district. Enrollment impacts the overall budget, as well as programming, staffing, facilities master planning, among other key components, of the district.

Last month, the former Board was presented with enrollment projections from the New England School Development Council (NESDEC). The presentation is available for our new Board members on our website. We can also provide this information to new Board members through my office if requested.

With the uncertainty of enrollment projections as a result of Covid, the administration has recommended seeking enrollment projections from two separate agencies again this year. The December 6 presentation and analysis will be provided by Mike Zuba (formerly of Milone and MacBroom) and his firm, SLAM Collaborative. Milone and MacBroom, a name familiar to Board members and the community, has joined with SLR consulting, and is no longer developing enrollment projections. This second round of projections should serve the Board well in the upcoming 2022-2023 operating budget deliberations. As reported earlier this year, the flight of families into Connecticut was experienced most significantly in Westport. Our schools are a primary draw for young families. These projections are a useful tool in planning and budgeting. That said, the fluidity of movement of families, and the unknown factors (i.e. the pandemic) make the task of projections more challenging than ever before.

#### **3. FY 2022 Preliminary Budget Discussions with Board of Finance, RTM Education Chair, and Finance Committee Chair**

Each year the Chairs of the Board of Finance, RTM Education Committee, and RTM Finance Committee are provided an opportunity to address the Board of Education prior to the deliberations of the Board’s operating budget. This item is an annual practice which initiates the budget process through a collaborative discussion.

In addition to enrollment projections, the information provided by the town Boards should serve the Board of Education well in the upcoming budget deliberations.

#### **4. Town of Westport ARPA Funds**

This item is a follow up from prior Board discussions. Although it is only a discussion item for December 6, Board action will need to be taken on December 20 to advance this request.

The town has been granted \$8.4 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. ARPA provides \$350 billion nationally in funding for state and local governments.

Following a presentation to the Board of Finance by the prior First Selectman, the Board of Finance asked the Board of Education for input regarding the possible use of a portion of these town funds for our schools. The Board of Education has already received Covid relief funds which were included in the offset of the 2021-2022 operating budget. The ARPA funds are municipal funds, yet the town has requested the Board of Education's input for possible use in our schools.

In response to the Board of Finance request to the Board of Education, the administrative team researched possible uses and cost estimates. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Anthony Buono, has worked with members of the administrative team, as well as potential vendors, to get cost estimates of these recommended projects. This will be Dr. Buono's second presentation to the Board in anticipation of a Board vote on December 20 for a recommendation to the Board of Finance.

The attached slide deck (forthcoming Friday) outlines the following projects presented to the Board for funding consideration:

- the development of outdoor learning centers at our elementary schools which will make Westport the first district in the state to have outdoor learning centers at each of its elementary schools
- the addition of playground equipment for the middle schools,
- high and low ropes courses for our high school to support social and emotional development through curricular programs that create instructional "adventures" and opportunities for students to authentically problem-solve, face the unexpected, and develop collaboration and leadership skills

Again, this is a discussion topic only for the December 6 meeting. Board action will be asked for the December 20 meeting.

## **5. Proposed Course Proposals**

The administration is proposing two new courses for next year. Both are being proposed in order to enhance and complement current program offerings and to provide students with opportunities and content that is not currently being offered. Below is additional information on each of the courses.

### **AP Computer Science A**

AP Computer Science A is a well established AP course that many current software engineers and computer scientists took when they were in high school. While Staples currently offers a wide range of computer science/programming courses, we are the exception in the area for not offering AP Computer Science A. Inclusion of this course in the Staples computer offerings will round out our robust offerings and provide an avenue for students to explore an ever expanding area of STEM careers before they matriculate to university.

### **Popular Music & Diversity in American Society**

The Staples Music Department is excited to propose a new course, "Popular Music & Diversity in American Society" This is a new UConn Early College Experience (ECE) course that aligns with two of the department goals offering more non-performance based and honors/AP-level courses. The class aims to make connections between modern society and popular music over the past 100+ years using primary sources to analyze and study music from the viewpoint of contemporary American society, exploring issues of class, gender, race, and resistance.

## **6. Proposed Board of Education Meeting Dates 2022-2023**

The attached calendar lists the proposed Board of Education meeting dates for the 2022-2023 school year. You will notice the extra meeting dates in January to accommodate for the budget deliberations.

## **Discussion /Action**

### **1. Building Committee for the Staples High School Roof Replacement Project**

As was shared at the last Board meeting, we were recently informed, after submitting the state grant application for reimbursement, that a formal building committee will need to be assigned and formally approved to advance the grant application for the Staples roof project. The town maintains a standing building committee, the Westport Public Site and Building Commission. It is the recommendation of the administration that the Board of Education take action to request that the RTM designate the Westport Public Site and Building Commission serve as the formal building committee for the Staples roof project. After review with the town attorney, it is understood that this commission will satisfy this state requirement in order to be eligible for reimbursement grant funds for the project. Given the narrow and targeted nature of this project (i.e. a roof project), I recommend this action. If this project were of a broader scale (e.g. renovation of a school building), then I would recommend that the Board appoint an independent building committee.

2. Gifts

At a prior Board meeting, the Board was asked to approve funds donated by booster clubs to cover the costs of the addition of assistant coaches in specific programs. Over the years, in order to accommodate the considerable athletic student body,, a number of athletic support clubs have provided funds to cover the costs of additional coaches in our programs. These positions, largely assistant coaches, are to help supplement our programs due to either an increase in participation rates, or needed supervision to maintain appropriate levels of safety. This process must be done through formal Board of Education action in accepting donations.

The Staples Athletic Department is requesting that the Board formally accept the gift of the winter coaching stipends from the Staples Boys Basketball Association and the Boys Indoor Track Booster Club to cover the costs of 1 assistant coach for each of these programs.

**WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Board Members Present:**

Candice Savin	Chair
Karen Kleine	Vice Chair
Elaine Whitney	Secretary
Jeannie Smith	
Lee Goldstein	
Liz Heyer	

**Administrators Present:**

Thomas Scarice	Superintendent of Schools
Anthony Buono	Asst. Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
Michael Rizzo	Asst. Superintendent, Pupil Personnel Services
Elio Longo	Chief Financial Officer
John Bayers	Asst. Superintendent, Human Resources and General Admin.

**Absent:**

Youn Su Chao

**PUBLIC CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** 7:04 p.m., Staples High School, Cafeteria B (Room 301)

**RECOGNITION OF CANDICE SAVIN, KAREN KLEINE, ELAINE WHITNEY, AND JEANNIE SMITH**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION**

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**MINUTES**

Elaine Whitney moved to approve the minutes of November 1 and 10, 2021; seconded by Karen Kleine and passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION**

Health Update

NESDEC Enrollment Projections

Finance and Facilities Committee Update

**DISCUSSION/ACTION**

Carryover Fund Memorandum of Agreement

**Be it resolved that. upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the draft language to amend and restate its Memorandum of Agreement with the Board of Finance pertaining to the Board of Education Carryover Account, said language to be appended to the minutes of the meeting of November 15, 2021; that the Board of Education authorizes its Chair to execute an updated Memorandum of Agreement in accordance with said language; and that the Board of Education requests that the Board of Finance also executes said updated Memorandum of Agreement in accordance with said language.**

**MOTION:** Elaine Whitney  
**SECOND:** Karen Kleine  
**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously  
**VOTE:** 6-0

Gifts

**Be it resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts with gratitude and appreciation the donation of \$2,915.99 by the Staples High School PTA for homecoming activities.**

**MOTION:** Jeannie Smith  
**SECOND:** Elaine Whitney  
**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously  
**VOTE:** 6-0

Second Reading of the Following:

- Policy 4152.6, "FMLA" (new),
- Policy 3524.1, "Pesticide Application on School Property" (new),
- Policy 5131.911, "Bullying" (revision),
- Policy 5131.912, "Safe School Climate" (revision),
- Policy 3510, "Policy Regarding Maintenance of School Facilities and Compliance with Environmental, Health, and Safety Requirements" (new),
- Policy 6162.51, "Survey of Students/Student Privacy" (new)

**Be it resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves:**

- **the amendment of Policy 4152.6, "FMLA,"**
- **the creation of Policy 3524.1, "Pesticide Application on School Property,"**
- **the amendment of Policy 5131.911, "Bullying,"**
- **the amendment of Policy 5131.912, "Safe School Climate," and**
- **the creation of Policy 6162.51, "Survey of Students/Student Privacy."**

**MOTION:** Karen Kleine  
**SECOND:** Lee Goldstein  
**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously  
**VOTE:** 6-0

Action on the creation of Policy 3510, "Policy Regarding Maintenance of School Facilities and Compliance with Environmental, Health, and Safety Requirements" was deferred by consensus to a future meeting.

Creation of Special Committee to Address Grievance of Non-Certified Staff Members

**Be it resolved that, in accordance with Board Bylaw 9130, a special committee to address the grievance of non-certified staff members heard by the Board on November 10, 2021, which shall be called the Grievance Committee, is hereby created.**

**Be it further resolved that, in accordance with Board Bylaw 9130, the Grievance Committee is hereby authorized to resolve, settle, decide, and/or otherwise address the grievance and any matters related thereto without further action by the full Board.**

**Be it further resolved that, in accordance with Board Bylaw 9121, the Chairperson hereby appoints Lee Goldstein and Liz Heyer as members of the Grievance Committee; appoints Lee Goldstein as Chair of the Grievance Committee; and authorizes Lee Goldstein to appoint one or more additional Board members to the Grievance Committee.**

**MOTION:** Candice Savin  
**SECOND:** Jeannie Smith  
**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously  
**VOTE:** 6-0

**ADJOURNMENT:** Jeannie Smith moved to adjourn at 9:07 p.m.; seconded by Karen Kleine and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Whitney, Secretary, Board of Education  
(minutes written by Lisa Marriott)



# New Course Proposal: AP Computer Science A

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Completing our complement of computer science offerings

Dr. Nick Morgan, Mr. David Scrofani, and Ms Clare Woodman

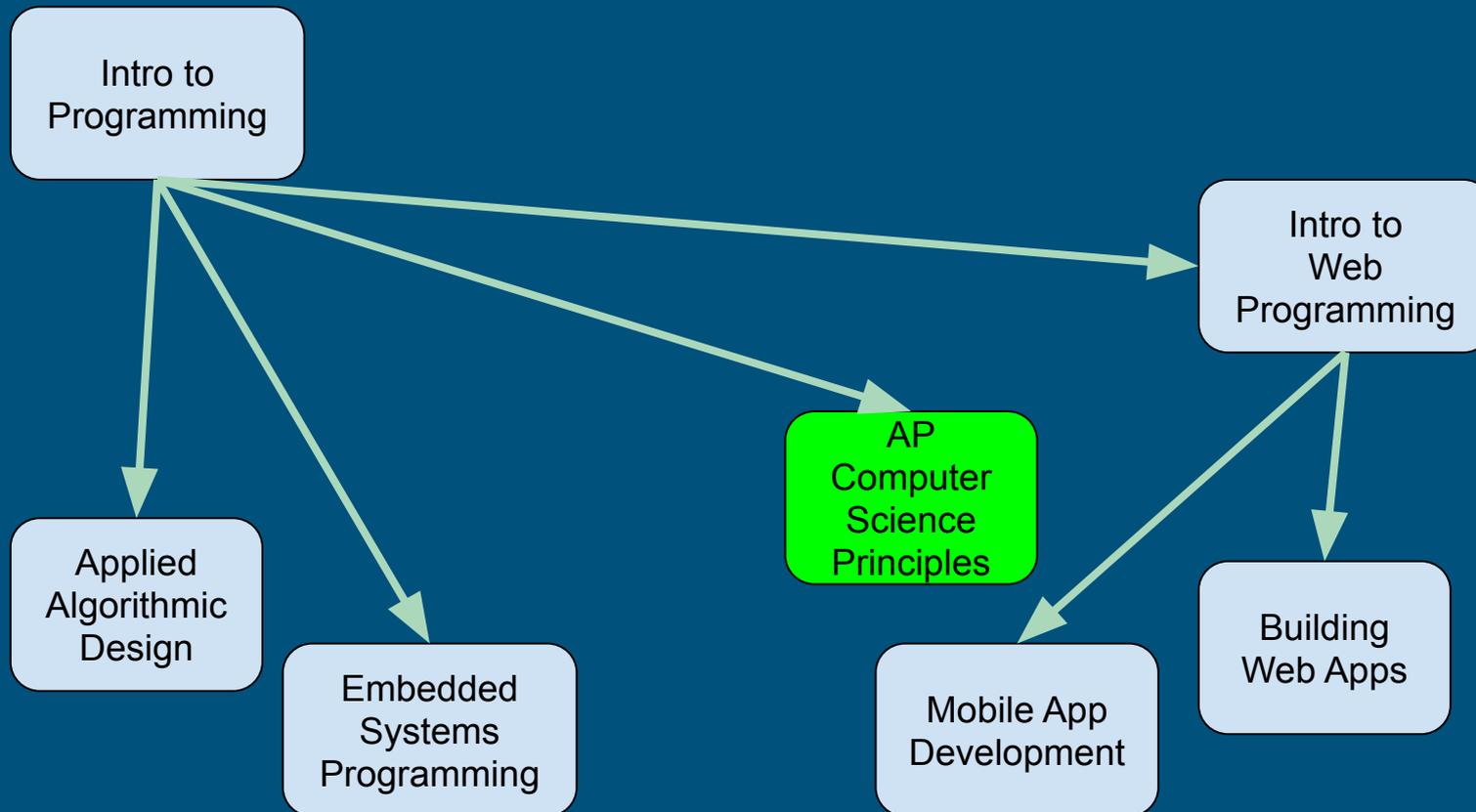
# Current Computer Offerings

## Courses Currently offered

- Introduction to Computer Programming (0.5 credits)
- Introduction to Web Programming (0.5 credits)
- Building Web Applications (0.5 credits)
- Applied Algorithmic Programming (0.5 credits)
- Building Mobile Apps (0.5 credits)
- Embedded Systems Programming (0.5 credits)
- AP Computer Science Principles, APCSP** (1.0 credits)

# Current Computer Course Program

Sophistication grows  
Downward



Traditional programming

Web/Mobile programming

# Key Info about Staples Computer Courses

## Courses Currently offered

- Between 200 and 250 enrollments in SHS Computer courses
- The program is designed to offer diverse pathways for students
- The majority of Fairfield County Districts offer BOTH **APCSP** & **APCSA**
  - we are the only district to just offer APCSP

# What is the difference between **APSCP** and **APSCA**

## AP Computer Science Principles

- Theory Based
- Less Emphasis on Coding
- Greater Focus on Problem Solving
- Learns Broad Concepts
- Exam Includes In-Class Tasks

## AP Computer Science A

- Data Structures
- Coding
- Algorithms

- Greater Emphasis on Coding
- Uses Java Exclusively
- Focuses on Specific Topics
- Uses Object Oriented Programming

# APCSA Overview

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1. Established course
2. Focus on computer programming, mainly Java
3. Requires 20 hours of structured lab experiences featuring collaborative problem solving

# APCSA Standards

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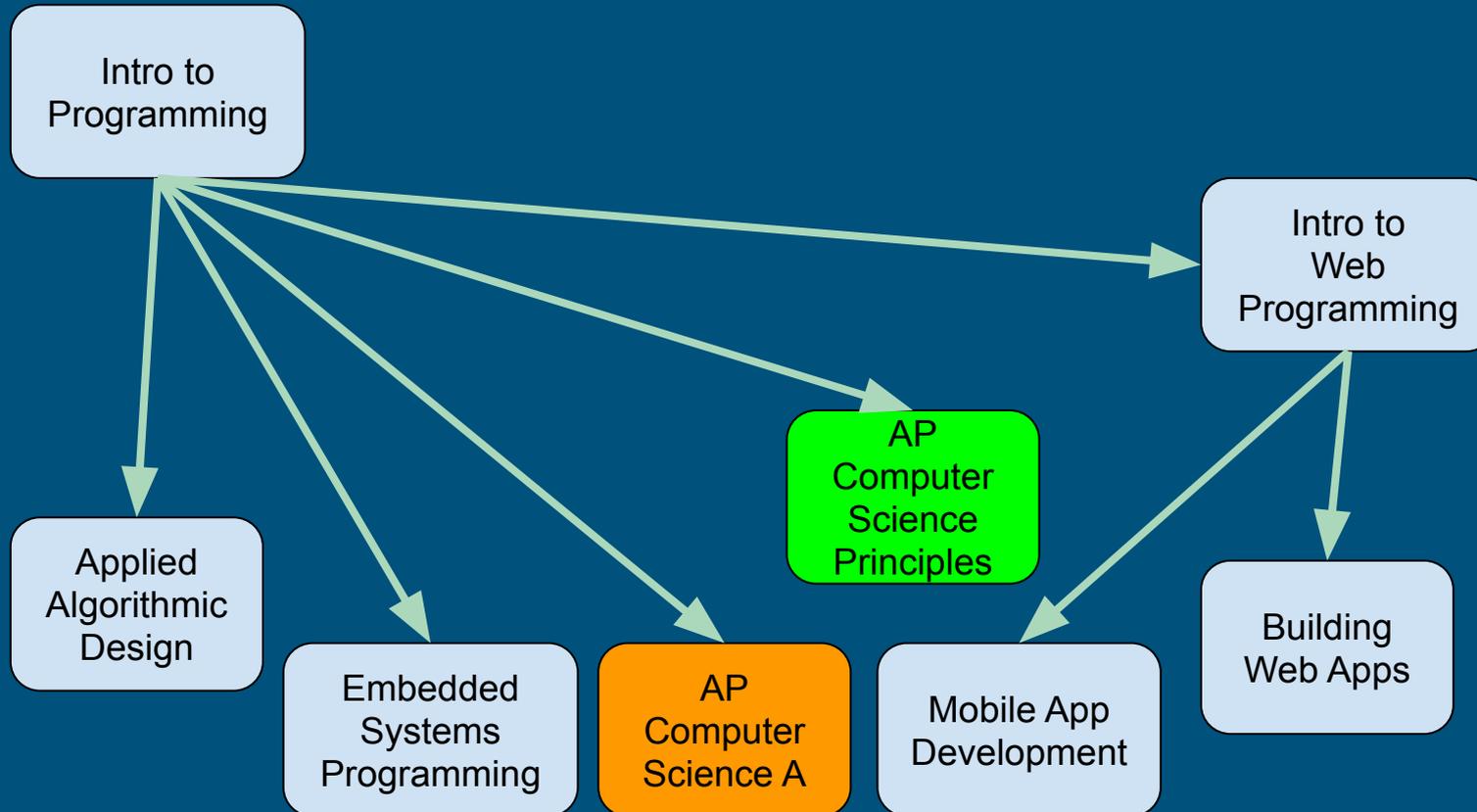
1. Program Design and Algorithm Development
2. Code Logic
3. Code Implementation
4. Code Testing
5. Documentation
6. Ethical Computing

APCSA Unit guide:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Gk-3bsMjkkfX1e0c\\_XyEZMrZolqi7NHqmFHFkelfM/BU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Gk-3bsMjkkfX1e0c_XyEZMrZolqi7NHqmFHFkelfM/BU/edit?usp=sharing)

# Proposed Computer Course Program

Sophistication grows  
Downward



Traditional programming

Web/Mobile programming

# Summary

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- APCSA is an established AP course
- APCSA complements the existing APCSP course at Staples
- APCSA will expand access to computer programming skills for Staples students

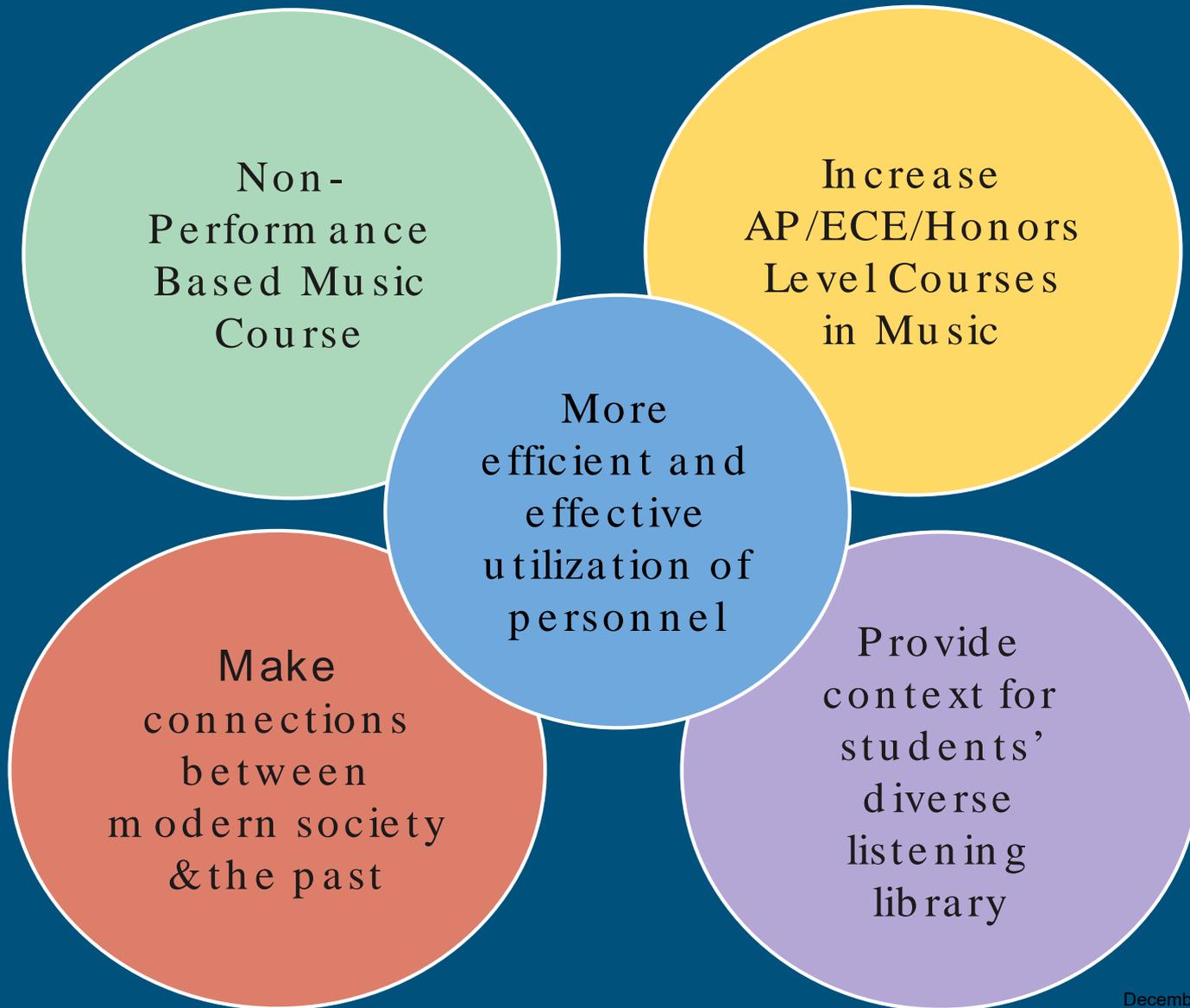
Questions?



# UConn ECE - MUSI 1003: Popular Music & Diversity in American Society

Steve Zimmerman - Coordinator of Music & Visual Arts

# Why Popular Music & Diversity in American Society



# Course Overview

An introduction to popular music and diversity in America: jazz, blues, Top-40 pop, rock, hip-hop, and other genres.

Using primary sources (recordings/interviews) to study music and musicians from their own point of view.

Analyzing music from the viewpoint of contemporary American society, exploring issues of class, gender, race, and resistance.

# Essential Questions



- ★ How do the characteristics (norms, structures, and elements) of various popular music genres crossover and evolve?
- ★ What is/has been music's role in addressing issues in American society including accepting others, challenging discrimination, and rejecting violence?
- ★ How do artists of differing genres reflect the society in which they live?
- ★ How has technology impacted both the creation and consumption of music throughout the past 100 years?
- ★ How does your personal experience with music and in society influence what and how you listen to various styles of music?

# Units

## Unit 1

- Introduction: Themes and streams of American Music
- The Elements of Music (theme, hook, riff, form, etc.)
- 19th Century and early 20th Century roots
- Blues and hillbilly music in the 1920s
- Racial politics and the rise of jazz
- The post-war decade 1946-1954
- The rock 'n' roll explosion 1954-1959
- **PROJECT: Create an Annotated Playlist or Podcast of Music That Matters to You:**

## Unit 2

- American Pop & the 'British Invasion'
- Soundtrack for a Revolution Film
- Country, Soul, and Folk in the 1960s
- Rock and Disco c. 1967-1978
- 'Outsider' genres in the 1970s: outlaws & punks
- **PROJECT: Create an Annotated Playlist or Podcast of Protest Music**

# Units

## Unit 3

- Gender, race, and the pop mainstream in the 1980s
- Country-Pop Crossovers
- Rock meets R&B
- The Rise of Synth-Pop & Mainstream Metal
- The 1990s: The rise of Hip-Hop
- The 1990s cont.: 'Alternative' musics
- Digital Technology & Pop Music - Napster and .mp3

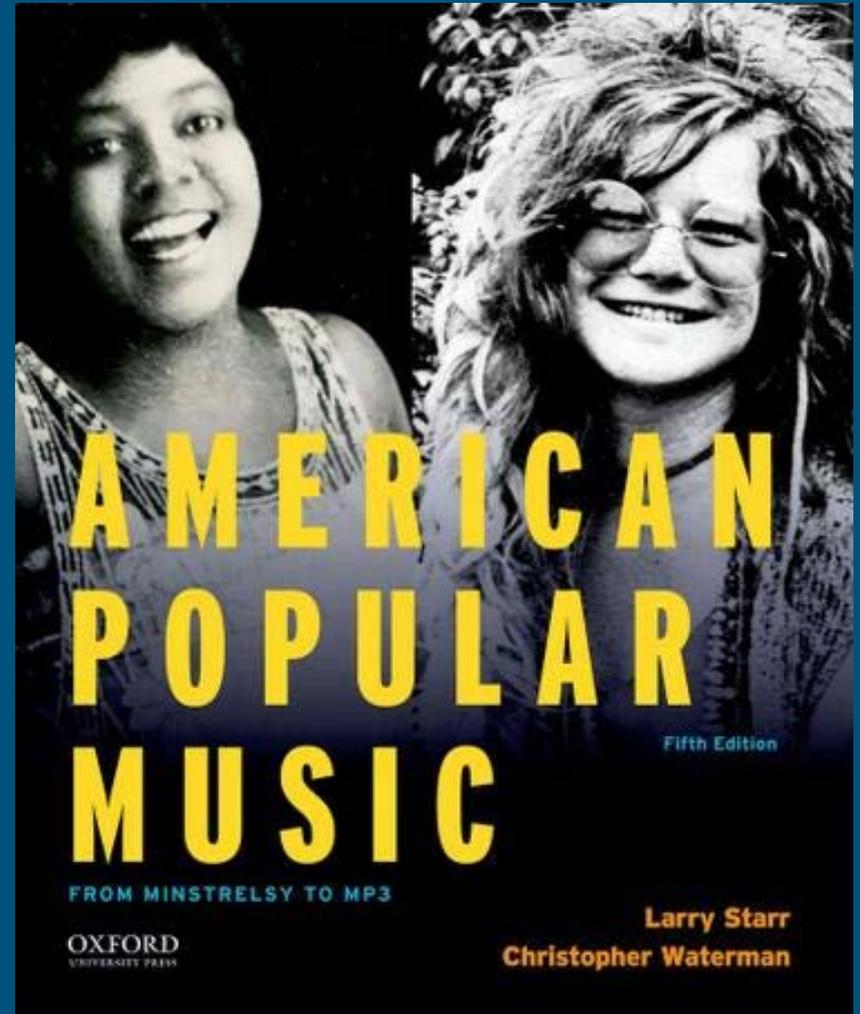
## Unit 4

- Smells Like Teen Spirit
- Hip-Hop in the New Millennium
- 21st-Century Divas: We Never Go Out of Style
- The Internet Age
- Who are you/we now?
- Music and identities from the local to the global
- **Culminating project: Students create a podcast or an annotated playlist that features discussion by the students and snippets of each of the songs.**

# Textbooks

**Primary Text:**  
**American Popular Music:**  
**From Minstrels to MP3, 5th**  
**ed. (by Larry Starr and**  
**Christopher Waterman)**

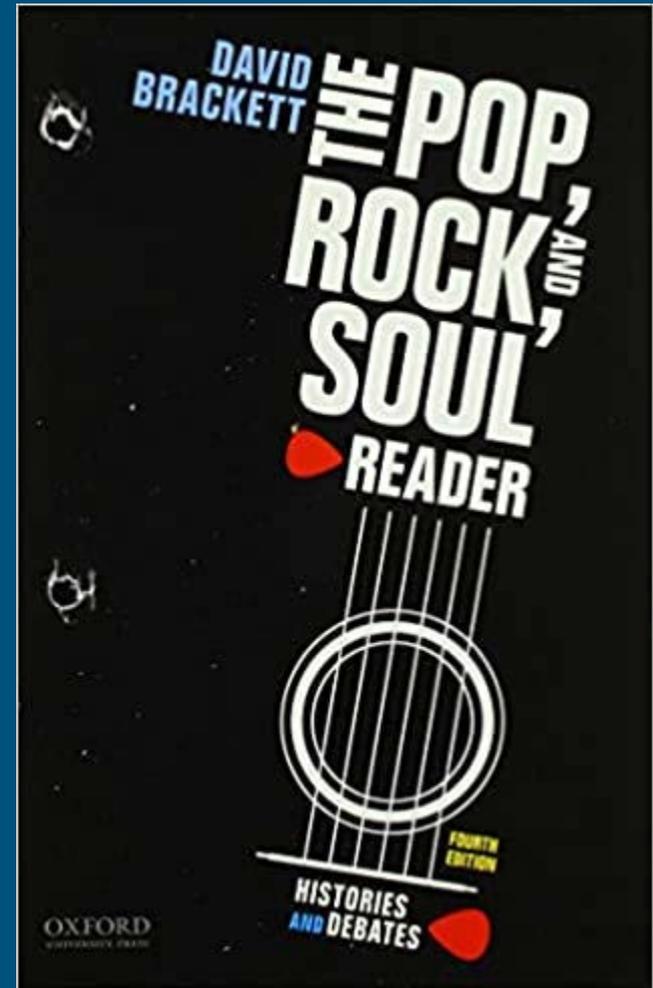
Helps students hear more in  
the music around them with  
a unique combination of  
cultural and social history  
with the analytical study of  
musical styles



# Textbooks

**Secondary Text:**  
**Anthology: Pop, Rock & Soul  
Reader, 3rd ed. (edited by David  
Brackett)**

**100 readings from mainstream  
and specialized magazines,  
newspapers, scholarly journals,  
interviews, and autobiographies  
of musicians and other music  
industry insiders**





# UConn ECE - MUSI 1003: Popular Music & Diversity in American Society

Steve Zimmerman - Coordinator of Music & Visual Arts



## WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2022-2023 BOE MEETING DATES

DRAFT

- School in Session
- Teacher Professional Development
- Snow Dates
- BOE Meeting Dates

### KEY DATES

- Aug 25-26, 29** Professional Development
- Aug 30** First Day of School
- Sept 5** Labor Day
- Sept 26** Rosh Hashanah
- Oct 5** Yom Kippur
- Oct 12** Early Release/Professional Development
- Nov 8** Election Day – Professional Development
- Nov 23** Early Dismissal
- Nov 24-25** Thanksgiving Recess
- Dec 26-Dec 30** Winter Recess
- Jan 16** Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Feb 20** Presidents' Day
- Feb 17** Professional Development
- Feb 20-24** February Recess
- March 22** Early Release/Professional Development
- Apr 7** Good Friday
- April 7-14** Spring Recess
- May 29** Memorial Day
- June 14** Last Day of School/Graduation (Early Release)

Students: 182 days

Teachers: 187 days

There are 5 snow days built into the calendar. If there are no snow days students' last day will be June 14. In the event that additional make-up days are needed, District schools will use, in the following order: Monday, April 10; Tuesday, April 11; Wednesday, April 12; Thursday, April 13; Friday, April 14.

July 2022						
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31						
August 2022						
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April 2023						
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June 2023						
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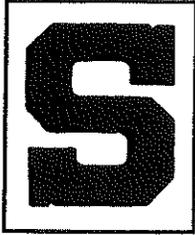
## CHAPTER 21 - Public Site and Building Commission

### § C21-1. - Composition and Appointment.

The Public Site and Building Commission shall consist of 9 members, who shall be electors of the Town, appointed by the First Selectman and confirmed by the Representative Town Meeting. Such members shall serve for four-year terms and until their successors are appointed and have taken office. In 1987, 5 members shall be appointed and 4 members shall be appointed in 1988 and thereafter alternately.

### § C21-2. - Powers and Duties.

The Public Site and Building Commission shall manage and have control of those approved building projects specifically assigned to it by the First Selectman and may assist, upon the First Selectman's request, in planning all other building projects of the Town of Westport and in supervision of construction of such projects. Contracts in connection with all building projects, whether or not assigned to the Public Site and Building Commission and including but not limited to school building projects, shall be authorized by the Board of Selectmen. The Public Site and Building Commission may request the First Selectman to appoint an engineer to work at its direction. Unless otherwise expressly designated by the RTM with the concurrence of the First Selectman, the Public Site and Building Commission shall be designated as the school building committee as that term is defined by the General Statutes.



**WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS • STAPLES HIGH SCHOOL**  
70 North Avenue, Westport, Connecticut 06880

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**MARTY LISEVICK** Director of Athletics  
Phone: 203-341-1263 Fax: 203-341-1261

Tom Scarice  
Superintendent  
Westport Public Schools  
Westport, CT. 06880

12/1/2021

Tom,

The Staples Athletic Department is asking Westport BOE to accept the gift of the winter coaching stipends below from the associated booster clubs. These are to help supplement our programs due to increase in the participation rates and needed supervision/safety concerns.

Boys Basketball – Michael Buswell – Assistant Coach - \$5694.00

Indoor Track – Jordan Magath – Assistant Coach - \$4301.00

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Marty Lisevick