

WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA*

(Agenda Subject to Modification in Accordance with Law)

PUBLIC CALL TO ORDER

6:30 p.m., Staples High School, Room 1025c

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Interview of Candidate for Anticipated Appointment to the Board of Education

RESUME PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

HOLIDAY SEASON PERFORMANCE:

The Staples High School Orphenians: Choral Director Luke Rosenberg

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION

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

MINUTES: December 2 and 6, 2021, *pages 3-6*

DISCUSSION/ACTION

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Appointment of New Board Member | Ms. Lee Goldstein |
| 2. Election of Officers: Board of Education Secretary | Ms. Lee Goldstein |
| 3. Appointment of Board of Education Committees | Ms. Lee Goldstein |

DISCUSSION

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Health Report | Ms. Suzanne Levasseur |
| 2. FY 2022 Preliminary Budget Discussions with Board of Finance, RTM Education Chair, and Finance Committee Chair | Mr. Thomas Scarice
Mr. Elio Longo |
| 3. Strategic Planning Update | Mr. Thomas Scarice |

DISCUSSION/ACTION

- | | | |
|--|---------|--------------------|
| 1. Proposed Course Additions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AP Computer Science, <i>pages 7-15</i>• Popular Music and Diversity in American Society (UConn), <i>pages 16-24</i> | (Encl.) | Dr. Anthony Buono |
| 2. Proposed Board of Education Meeting Dates 2022-2023, <i>pages 26-26</i> | (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 20, 2021 Board of Education Meeting
Date: December 17, 2021

Provided below for Board consideration is an overview of the meeting agenda items for December 20, 2021. The meeting will be held in-person.

Discussion

1. Health Update

As much as we anticipated only periodic health updates prior to the start of the year, it is clear that this item will remain on the Board agenda for the foreseeable future. Supervisor of Health Services, Sue Levasseur, will report the recent trends and she and I will discuss the challenges we are facing as the health staff and building administration endure year two of the pandemic with regards to contact tracing.

There have been some, but very few, requests from parents to preemptively change learning models and provide an option for remote learning for students. There have also been very few, but some, requests to change our district learning model to full remote learning for the time period just before and after the holiday break.

It is important to share that this type of action is not permitted this year. A preemptive move to remote learning is not an option for districts this year. School districts are able to implement continued educational opportunities (i.e. tutoring, remote contact with teachers outside of the classroom, before and after school programs, individuals "zooming" into classrooms, etc.) for students who must be in COVID-19 isolation or quarantine, and for localized outbreaks, and in rare and individualized circumstances, for students with elevated risks from COVID-19 exposure due to co-habiting family members with documented vulnerability to COVID-19. However, school districts are not permitted to preemptively change learning models to remote instruction as a school district, or for an individual school. That provision was removed prior to the start of the school year.

2. 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 light of the recent enrollment projections presentations, the information provided by the town Boards should serve the Board of Education well in the upcoming budget deliberations.

3. Strategic Planning Update

I would like to provide the Board with an overview of the status of strategic planning. A core team of educators, 28 in total, met on November 16 and 17 to review all of the data and information captured in surveys and focus groups, in addition to synthesizing the priority messages delivered by the two "futurists" we hosted this fall, Mitchell Weiss and Chris Bishop. Members of the core team will present to the Board on January 4, 2022 with the initial recommendations for the overall direction of the strategic planning process.

One primary message for Monday evening is a change in a recommendation that I had made in previous reports. As the equity study process unfolded, my initial recommendation was to fold the action steps of this study into the strategic plan. Although I do see some crossover between the potential areas of focus of the strategic plan and the draft action steps of the equity study, particularly around curriculum revisions and professional learning, I now recommend that each of these two documents stand on their own so that neither is compromised.

A draft of the equity study report is being reviewed and will likely be ready for public presentation to the Board by the end of January, or the beginning of February. This is later than we anticipated, yet it will be good timing as we simultaneously seek Board endorsement of the areas of focus of the strategic plan with the January 4 presentation.

By bringing these two efforts together, the district can work to synergize where there is commonality, while also advancing the work that is native to each plan. For example, the two areas of focus that will be proposed for the strategic plan are social/emotional wellness and design thinking, which is a human-centered process for collaborative and creative problem solving. The three draft action steps of the equity study focus on curriculum, professional learning, and internal data systems. There will be curriculum and professional learning emphasis in each plan, yet improving our data systems will likely be native to the equity study (i.e. intervention data, discipline referral data, etc.). Areas of commonality can accelerate in development by working across the two plans, perhaps with a common team, efficient funding, etc., and by keeping the plans separate, other areas will not be compromised and can receive the attention warranted by the strategic direction of the Board.

Discussion /Action

1. Proposed Course Proposals

As presented at the previous meeting, 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.

2. 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. Two drafts (one with and one without the first Tuesday in January)

**WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

Board Members Present:

Lee Goldstein
Liz Heyer
Kevin Christie
Christina Torres
Dorie Hordon
Robert Harrington (by phone)

Administrators Present:

Thomas Scarice Superintendent of Schools

Absent:

Youn Su Chao

Jessica Richman Smith, Shipman & Goodwin LLP attended the meeting at the invitation of the Board

PUBLIC CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 6:00 Staples High School, Library 502/503
Classrooms

DISCUSSION/ACTION

Board Professional Development Session Concerning the Roles and Responsibilities of the Board and the Superintendent.

ADJOURNMENT: Lee Goldstein moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.; seconded by Liz Heyer and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Goldstein Acting Secretary, Board of Education
(minutes written by Lisa Marriott)

WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Members Present:

Lee Goldstein Chair
Liz Heyer Vice Chair
Kevin Christie
Christina Torres
Dorie Hordon
Robert Harrington

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: 7:07 p.m. Staples High School,
Cafeteria B (Room 301)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Be it resolved, that the Board of Education elects Lee Goldstein to serve as Chair of the Westport Board of Education, said election effective until the next annual Board of Education election of officers.

MOTION: Kevin Christie
SECOND: Liz Heyer
RESULT: Passed
VOTE: 6-0

Be it resolved, that the Board of Education elects Liz Heyer to serve as Vice Chair of the Westport Board of Education, said election effective until the next annual Board of Education election of officers

MOTION: Lee Goldstein
SECOND: Dorie Hordon
RESULT: Passed
VOTE: 6-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

MINUTES: Liz Heyer moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 2021; seconded by Lee Goldstein and passed 2-0-4.

DISCUSSION

Health Report

S/L/A/M Enrollment Projections

FY 2022 Preliminary Budget Discussions with Board of Finance, RTM Education Chair, and Finance Committee Chair

Town of Westport ARPA Funds

Proposed Course Additions:

- AP Computer Science
- Popular Music and Diversity in American Society (UConn)

Proposed Board of Education Meeting Dates 2022-2023

DISCUSSION/ACTION

Building Committee for the Staples High School Roof Replacement Project

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and in accordance with the Town of Westport Charter, Chapter 21, the Board of Education requests the Representative Town Meeting designate the Westport Public Site and Building Commission as the building committee for the Staples High School roof replacement project.

MOTION: Liz Heyer
SECOND: Christina Torres
RESULT: Passed unanimously
VOTE: 6-0

Gifts

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts with gratitude and appreciation the donation of the following winter coaching stipends:

- \$5694.00 by the Staples Boys Basketball Association for Asst. Coach Michael Buswell, and
- \$4301.00 by the Boys Indoor Track Booster Club for Asst. Coach Jordan Magath.

MOTION: Liz Heyer
SECOND: Dorie Hordon
RESULT: Passed unanimously
VOTE: 6-0

ADJOURNMENT: Christina Torres moved to adjourn at 9:37 p.m.; seconded by Robert Harrington and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Goldstein Acting Secretary, Board of Education
(minutes written by Lisa Marriott)



New Course Proposal: AP Computer Science A

Completing our complement of computer science offerings

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

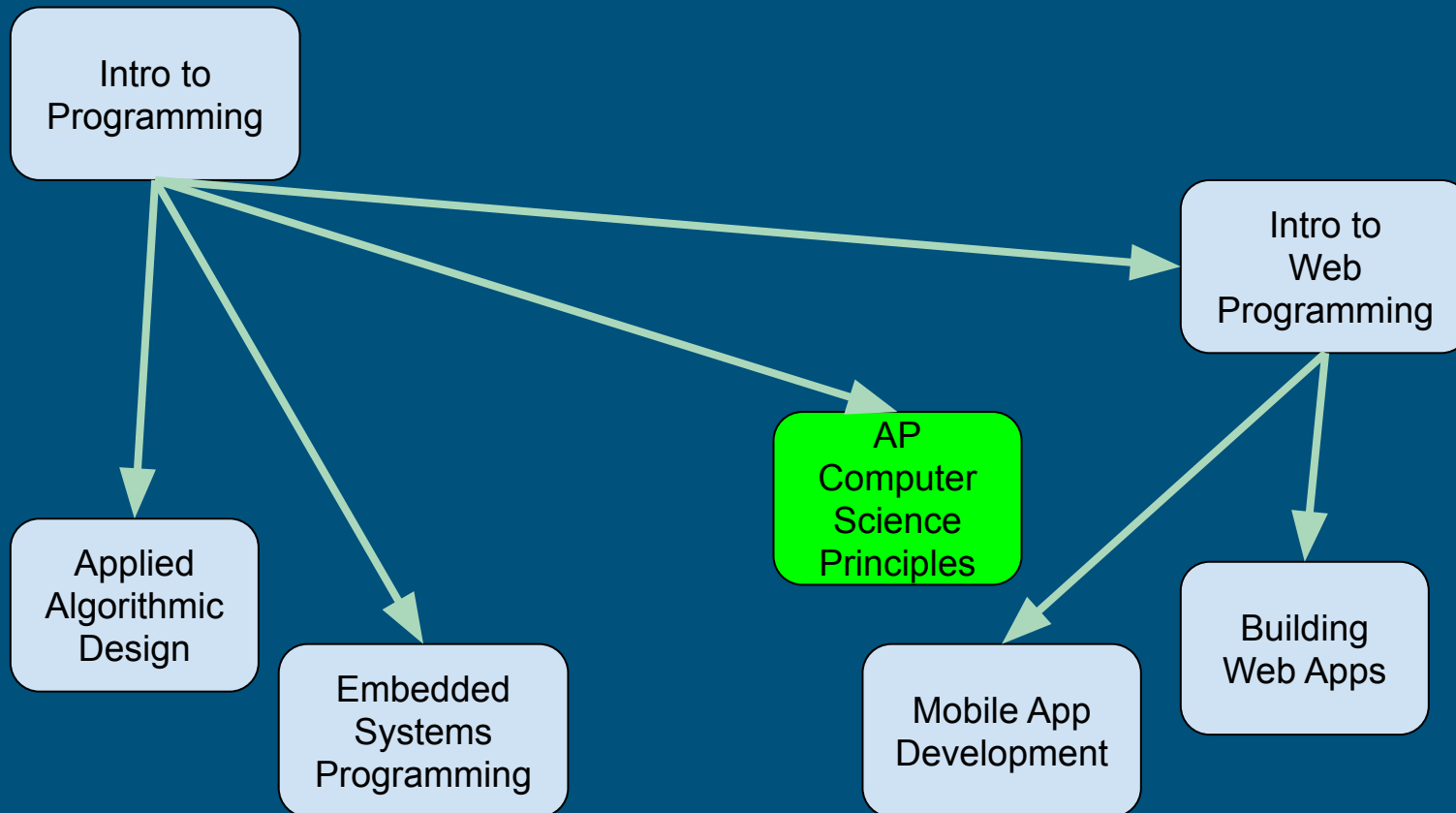
Current Computer Offerings

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

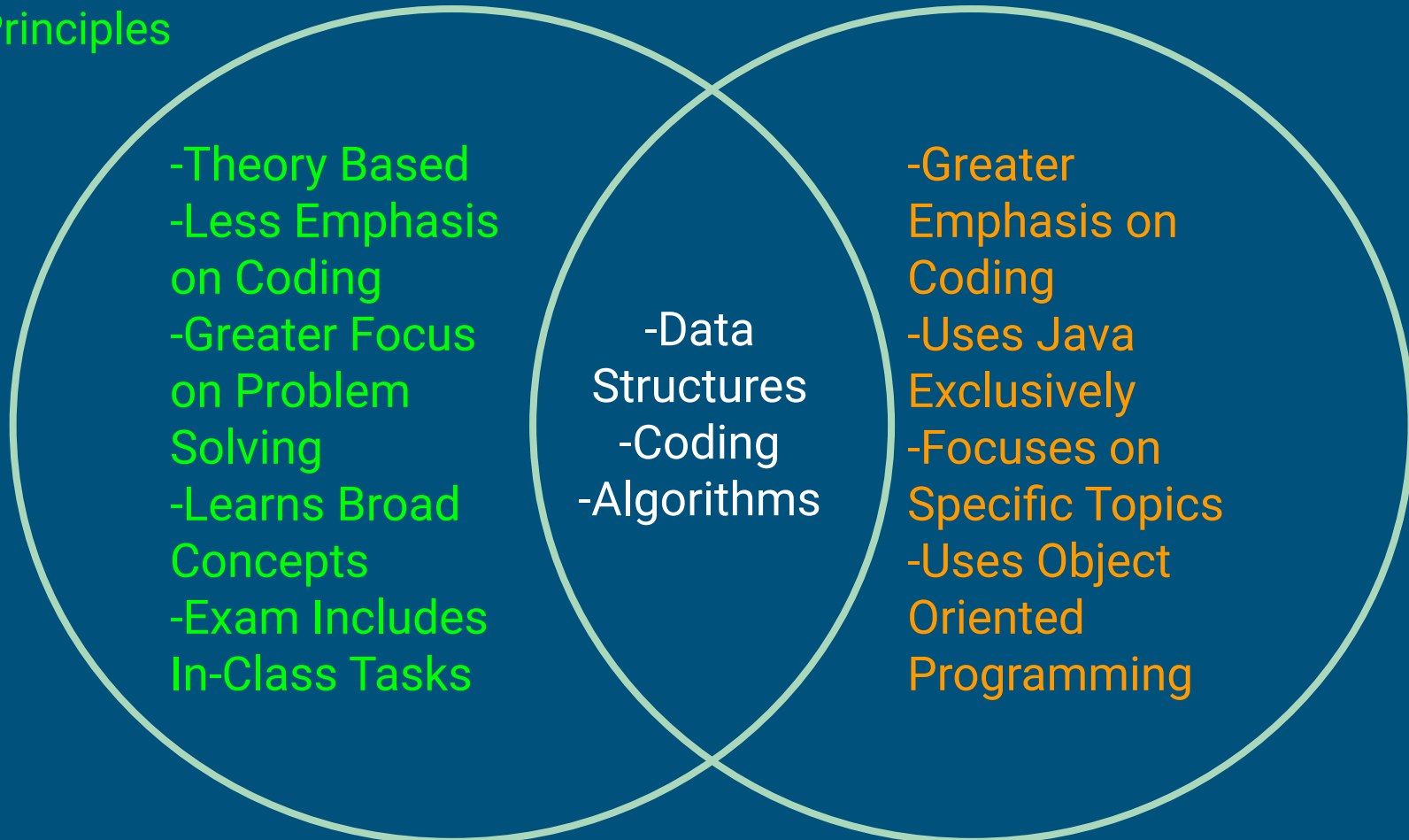
Courses Currently offered

- 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

AP Computer Science A



APCSA Overview

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

APCSA Standards

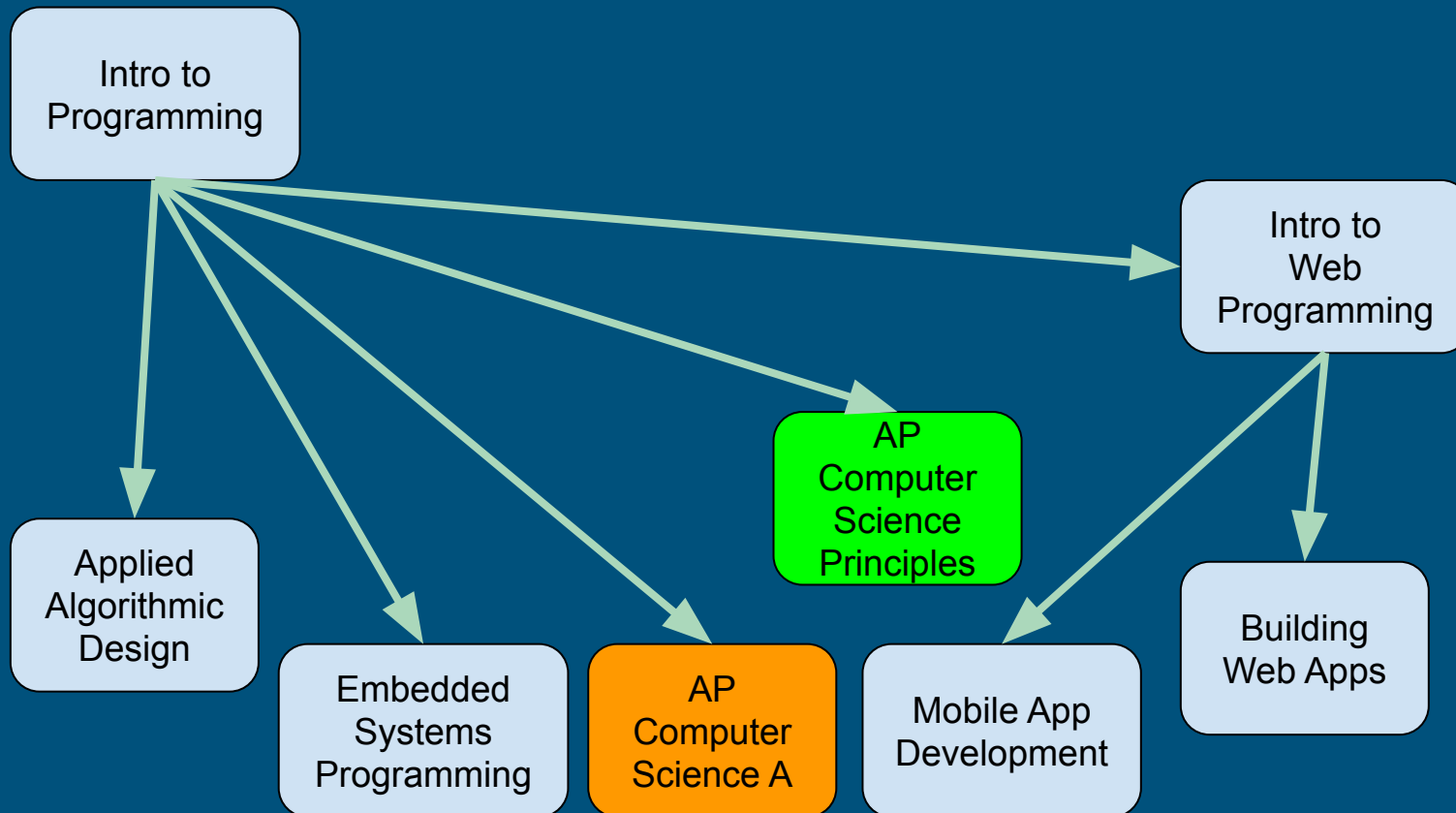
1. Program Design and Algorithm Development
2. Code Logic
3. Code Implementation
4. Code Testing
5. Documentation
6. Ethical Computing

APCSA Unit guide:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Gk-3bsMjkkfX1e0c_XyEZMrZolqi7NHqmFHFkelfM/BU/edit?usp=sharing

Proposed Computer Course Program

Sophistication grows
Downward



Traditional programming

Web/Mobile programming

Summary

- 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

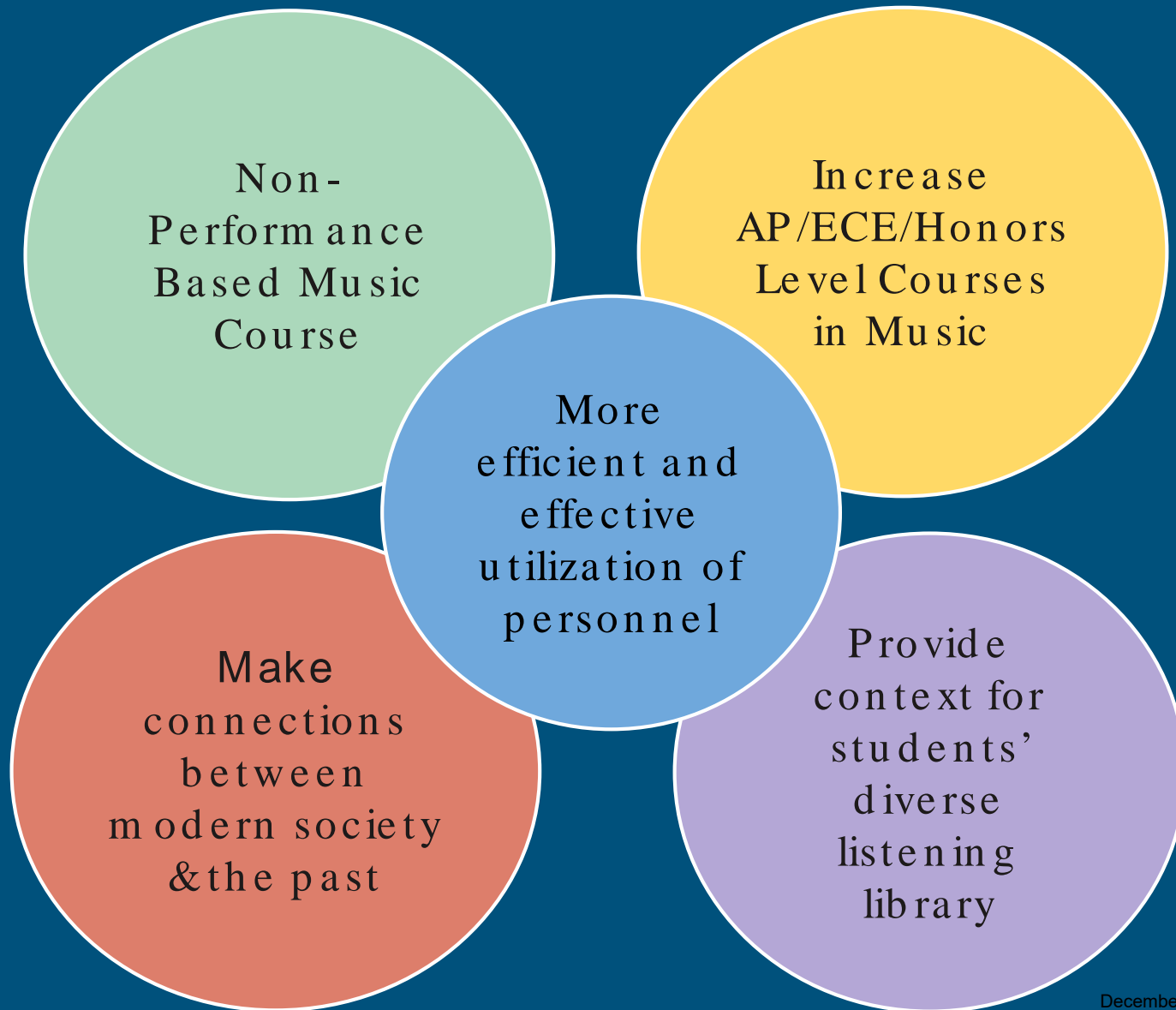
Questions?



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

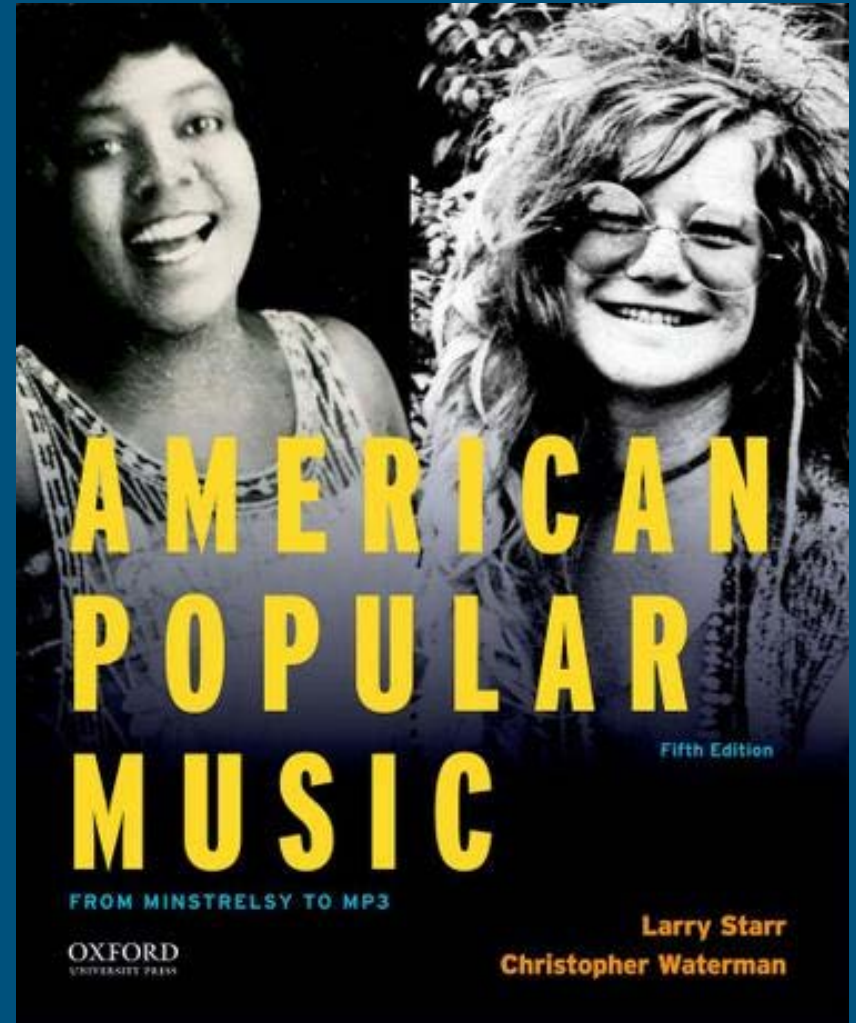
Unit 4

- 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)

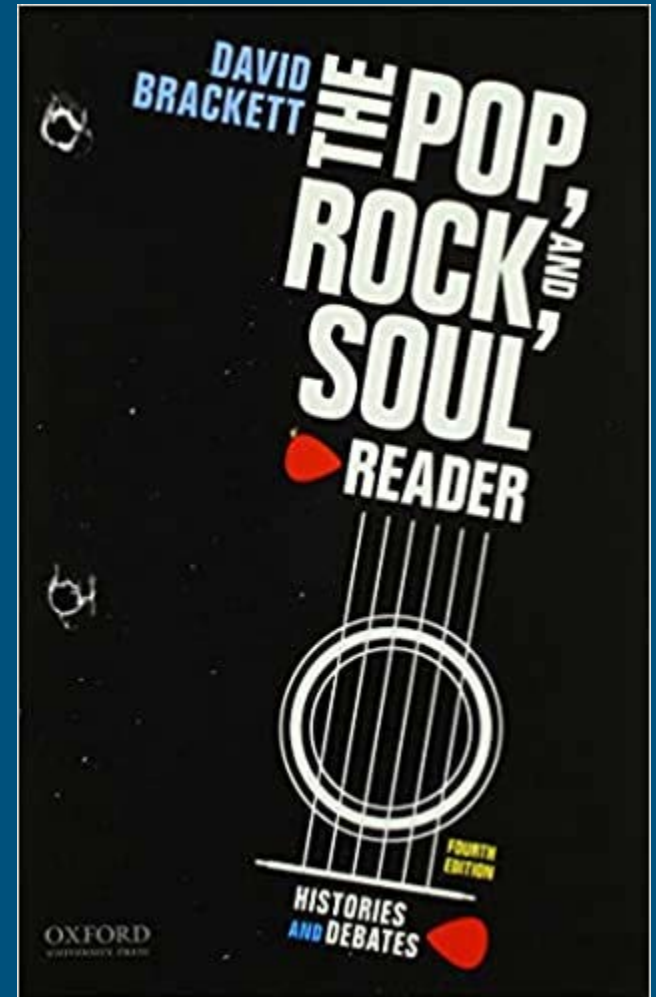
Helps students hear more in
the music around them with
a unique combination of
cultural and social history
with the analytical study of
musical styles



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 A

- 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.

*Approved by the Board of Education on: 5-17-2021

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