

LNSU/LNMUUSD Curriculum Committee Meeting
March 12, 2024

5:30pm: Meeting called to order by Allen Audette

Members Present: Allen Audette, Tina Lowe, Stephanie Sweet, Phil Kiely, Kyley Hill, Monica Stearns, Val Sullivan, Denise Maurice, Bethann Pirie, Diane Reilly

Motion to approve the agenda as written, seconded and passed.

Val provided the group with a handout of the LUHS 2024-25 course proposals. She stressed the need to provide engaging courses for our students at all grade levels. Next year we will offer more AP classes that will engage and challenge our students. Ian Trombulak told Val our courses approved last year are well attended and students are enjoying them.

Val gave a brief summary of the courses LUHS would like to offer for next year:

Lancer TV: This course addresses proficiency in writing, reading, speaking, listening, and self management. Students will investigate and report as well as write scripts, operate camera and switchboard, manage the studio floor, and edit their work. This is offered by Kerry Sheldon and could be a multi-level course.

AP Environmental Science: This course is designed to be the equivalent of a one semester, introductory college course. It will help students identify and analyze natural as well as human induced environmental problems. Students will learn how to assess the risk of environmental problems and will find alternate ways to resolve and prevent them. Lab experiences will provide hands-on understanding of the content and further build skills in science practices. This is a full-year course offered to students who have completed Biology and Chemistry and have taken one year of Algebra. It will be taught by Karalyn Burke.

American Sign Language: Students will learn basic signs, introductory vocabulary, and simple sentences. The course will provide an exploration into deaf culture, social beliefs, traditions, history, values, and communities influenced by deafness. ASL is the third most used language in North America. This course will give students another language choice since we no longer offer Latin. We hope to offer this to grades 9-12 and are currently searching for an instructor.

AP Physics C Mechanics: This course is a calculus-based course. Students will receive a college credit upon completion with a passing exam. The syllabus will include lessons in kinematics, forces, energy, momentum, angular momentum, torque, and simple harmonic motion. Conceptual concepts and math will be explored through labs, instruction, and projects. This is a year-long course and students must have passed pre-calculus, and be enrolled in AP calculus or preferably finished calculus. This is offered by Matt Girourd.

AP Physics 1+2: This course will give students a deep understanding of physics using geometry and algebra. They will be able to take Physics 1+2 exams in May to receive college credit. This course is also offered by Matt Girourd and qualified students will have passed geometry and be enrolled in Algebra 2 or preferably calculus.

Robotics: This is a one-semester course that will introduce students to engineering, mechanical design, and programming. Students will build a robot and compete in the Vermont FIRST robotics competition. FIRST is an international organization that challenges students to accomplish a different task every year with their robot. This is offered to students in grades 9-12 and will be taught by Matt Girourd.

AP History: This is a college-level introductory survey course of our nation's cultural, political, economic, and social history from the late 1400's to the present. This is a full year with the AP exam in May. This is offered to juniors and seniors (sophomores with teacher recommendation) who have completed US History and is offered by Chris Bologna.

Fantasy Literature: This course offers a different approach to traditional English courses. Students will study and discuss heroic archetypes, symbolism, allegory, mythology, and wonder inspired by fantastic realms and plots. Students are required to read outside of the classroom on their own. Students will read and write about fantasy literature and it is offered to students who have met their 9+10 grade proficiencies or who have been recommended by a teacher. It will be taught by David Porter.

AP Statistics: This is college board approved Math. Students will apply principles of statistics and probability to analyze and interpret data, reach and justify conclusions, and make predictions in real world context. Students must have completed Algebra 2 and be proficient in their English courses. This is offered by Will Widen.

Val explained to the group that the slavery course we approved last year will hopefully be offered next year. Students will learn about slavery in both the past and present. It will start with the Atlantic Slavery Trade and progress to modern slavery and the ways it still exists today. Also, Lizzie Lyons will offer a course in Career Exploration. This was originally taught by Mr. Laclair. Bethann discussed the importance of this class, especially for those who are unsure of their path. Capstone projects will be a bit more involved than in the past and the general nature of the course is getting an upgrade. Lizzie brings much experience in this area of helping kids find their passion.

Stephanie made a motion to approve all the presented courses, Allen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Val also mentioned that assessments are underway again.

There was a motion to adjourn at 6:00 p.m.