

Cheltenham High School Course Proposals

Educational Affairs Presentation

December 19, 2023

7:00 p.m.

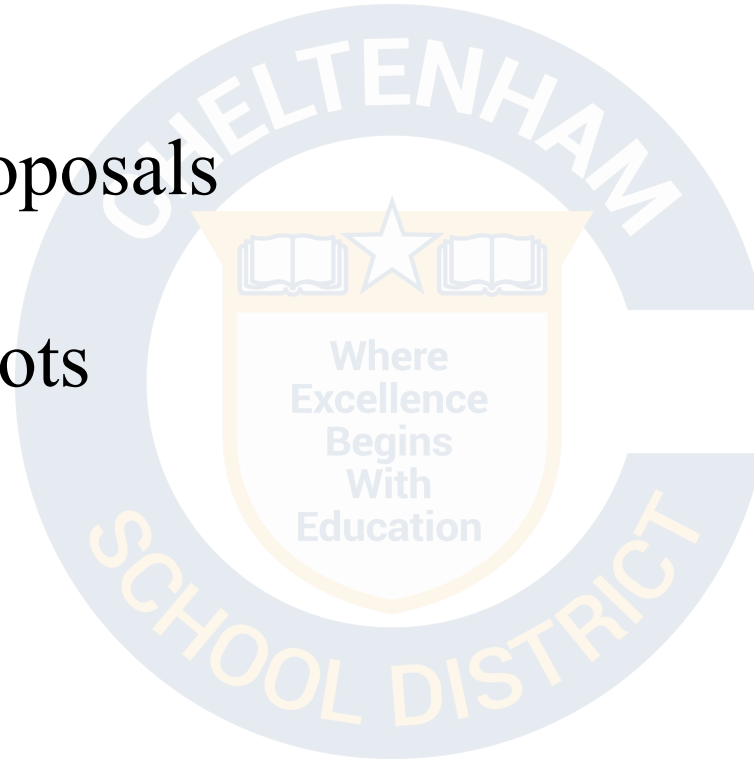
Mission Statement

The mission of Cheltenham School District is to provide inspiration and resources for every student to achieve academic excellence and pursue their highest potential by creating an equitable and inclusive community that fosters social and emotional well-being and a passion for learning.

Vision Statement

“Belong, Engage, Seek Justice” Cheltenham School District is a community where all students know they belong, engage and excel in their learning experience, and are prepared to act as champions of social justice.

- 1) Course Proposals
- 2) Course Pilots
- 3) Questions



- A **full credit course** (1.0) is scheduled daily for a semester or every other day for two semesters.
- A **half-credit** course (0.5) is scheduled for every other day for a semester.
- There are **two semesters** in a school year.

The background features a large, faded watermark of the Cheltenham School District logo. The logo is circular with 'CHELTENHAM' at the top and 'SCHOOL DISTRICT' at the bottom. In the center is a shield containing two open books, a star, and the motto 'Where Excellence Begins With Education'.

Course Proposals

Course Description:

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as a part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments. Recommended for students in Grades 11 and 12.

Course Credit: 1.0

Materials:

Printed and online articles, speeches, interviews, and personal narratives, artistic works and performances, or other kinds of texts that convey a perspective that can be examined.

Projected Staffing:

New teachers are not required.

Anticipated Costs to District:

Approximate summer training per teacher - \$1,500

1-2 teachers will require training

Course Description:

In this course students will learn to understand, ask questions of, and represent data through project-based units. The units will give students opportunities to be data explorers through active engagement, developing their understanding of data analysis, sampling, correlation/causation, bias and uncertainty, modeling with data, making and evaluating data-based arguments, and the importance of data in society. At the end of the course, students will have a portfolio of their data science work to showcase their newly developed knowledge and understanding.

Course Prerequisites: Algebra 1 and Geometry

Course Credit: 1.0

Materials:

Software access on Chromebooks

- CODAP - no login, web-based
- Google Sheets - Google account (alternative - excel, paid/no login), web-based
- Google Colab - Google account, web-based
- Google Data Commons - Add-on in google sheets
- EduBlocks - login with google account
- Tableau - login required (free education account - must be requested), web-based or downloadable

(Youcubed is designing around the less-powerful web-based version since it will be more widely accessible)

Projected Staffing:

New teachers are not required.

Anticipated Costs to District:

\$2300 per teacher for professional development on teaching
YouCubed Data Science Professional Development Curriculum

Course Description:

Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications is a mathematical modeling course that is algebra-based, applications-oriented, and technology-dependent. The course addresses college preparatory mathematics topics from Algebra 2, Statistics, Probability, Precalculus, and Calculus under eight financial umbrellas: Discretionary Expenses, Banking, Investing, Credit, Employment and Income Taxes, Automobile Ownership, Independent Living, and Retirement Planning and Household Budgeting.

Course Prerequisites: Algebra 1 and Geometry

Course Credit: 1.0

Materials:

Gerver, R. & Sgroi, R. Financial Algebra Second Edition. South-Western/Cengage Learning: Mason OH. Copyright 2018

Supplemental Internet resources

Projected Staffing:

New teachers are not required.

Anticipated Costs to District:

Approximately \$7,000 for a six-year subscription for print and digital resources

Course Description:

This course introduces environmental literacy and sustainability with focuses on practices, ecological processes, and systems that comprise the environment, including human social systems and influences. Sustainability is the balanced use of natural and renewable resources. Sustainable practices seek to ensure the integrity of ecological function and species diversity, with consideration for environmental justice, equity, and economic stability for current and future generations.

Students will be able to engage these issues through a technological & engineering lens. Students will use their learning to identify, analyze and present information on and design solutions to current and future environmental concerns on a local and global level.

Course Prerequisites: None

Course Credit: 1.0

Projected Staffing:

New teachers are not required, restructuring current Environmental Science offering

Anticipated Costs to District:

\$10,000 in startup engineering lab supplies to establish projects and curriculum activities.

Materials/Resources:

- SAS STEELS Hub Steels Hub
- NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) [Next Generation Science](#)
- NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) [NSTA.org](#)
- NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association) [NOAA education](#)
- The Concord Consortium STEM [Concord STEM](#)
- Aurum Science, [Aurum Environmental](#)
- [Earth.org](#)
- PBS (Public Broadcasting System) Learning Media, [PBS Ecology](#)
- The Biology Corner Website, [Ecology Resources](#)
- Penn State School of Agricultural Sciences, [PSU Lesson Plans](#)
- Gizmos Virtual Lab Platform

Rename Computer Programming I

to

Introduction to Java

The current title, Computer Programming I, needs to accurately describe the purpose of the course as it focuses on Java applications to prepare students for AP Computer Science A.

CHS also offers an Intro to Programming course focusing on foundational programming applications that prepare students for AP Computer Science Principles.

The renaming will clarify the scope of the course for students and families.



Course Pilots

Course Description:

The academic seminar course is designed to serve as a Tier II MTSS intervention for students who do not receive special education services. The class will meet every other day for a semester, and the focus of the class will be enhancing students' organizational strategies, time management, study habits, and self-advocacy skills. This class is designed to build on the foundation of the concepts taught in the first-year seminar course for students needing additional support to succeed in any grade level. Still, the first-year seminar class is optional.

Course Description Cont'd:

Students will learn to navigate oral and written communication with teachers about their questions, needs, and assignments. They will learn about various study strategies and practice using them in the context of their current classes. They will explore different techniques to track and manage their time and assignments, with the opportunity to practice using them. There will also be a focus on continuous reflection and applying knowledge learned through reflective practices.

Course Prerequisites: None**Course Credit:** 0.5

Staffing Implications:

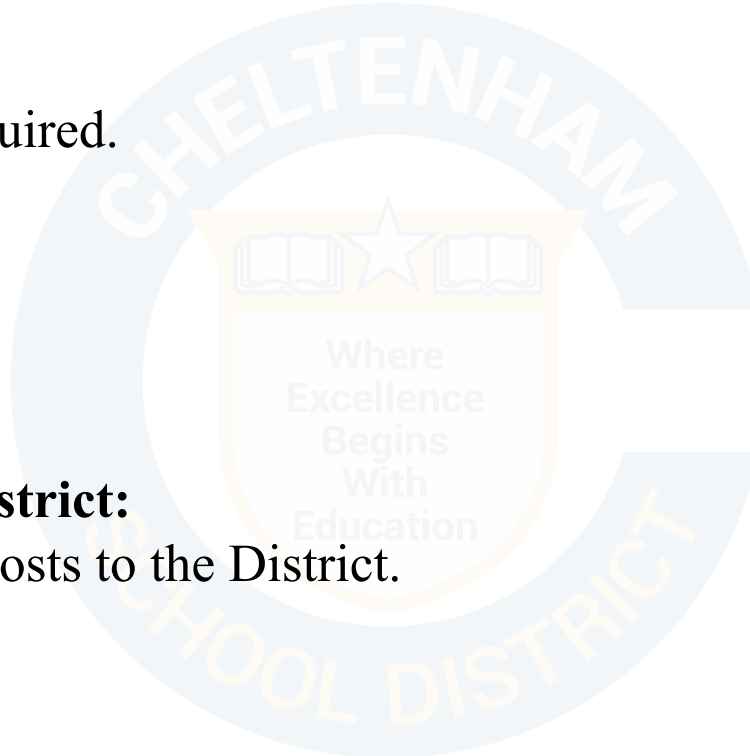
New teachers are not required.

Materials/Resources:

Chromebooks

Anticipated Costs to District:

There are no additional costs to the District.



Course Description:

Students will deepen learning about critical thinking, analysis, argumentation, reflection, and making sound choices to write effective academic responses. Students will learn techniques for reading, interpreting, and utilizing various sources in their writing. The course will cover critical grammatical concepts, multiple writing styles, research skills, and proper documentation. It will focus on rhetorical content and strategies that are the baseline of effective writing. This course will be heavily suggested for students considering Advanced Placement Social Studies and English courses.

Course Prerequisites: English 9**Course Credit:** 0.5

Staffing Implications:

New teachers are not required.

Materials/Resources:

Existing resources for AP Courses from College Board that are structured and scaffolded for students.

Anticipated Costs to District:

There are no additional costs to the District.

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Questions?