

Mount Olive Township  
School District

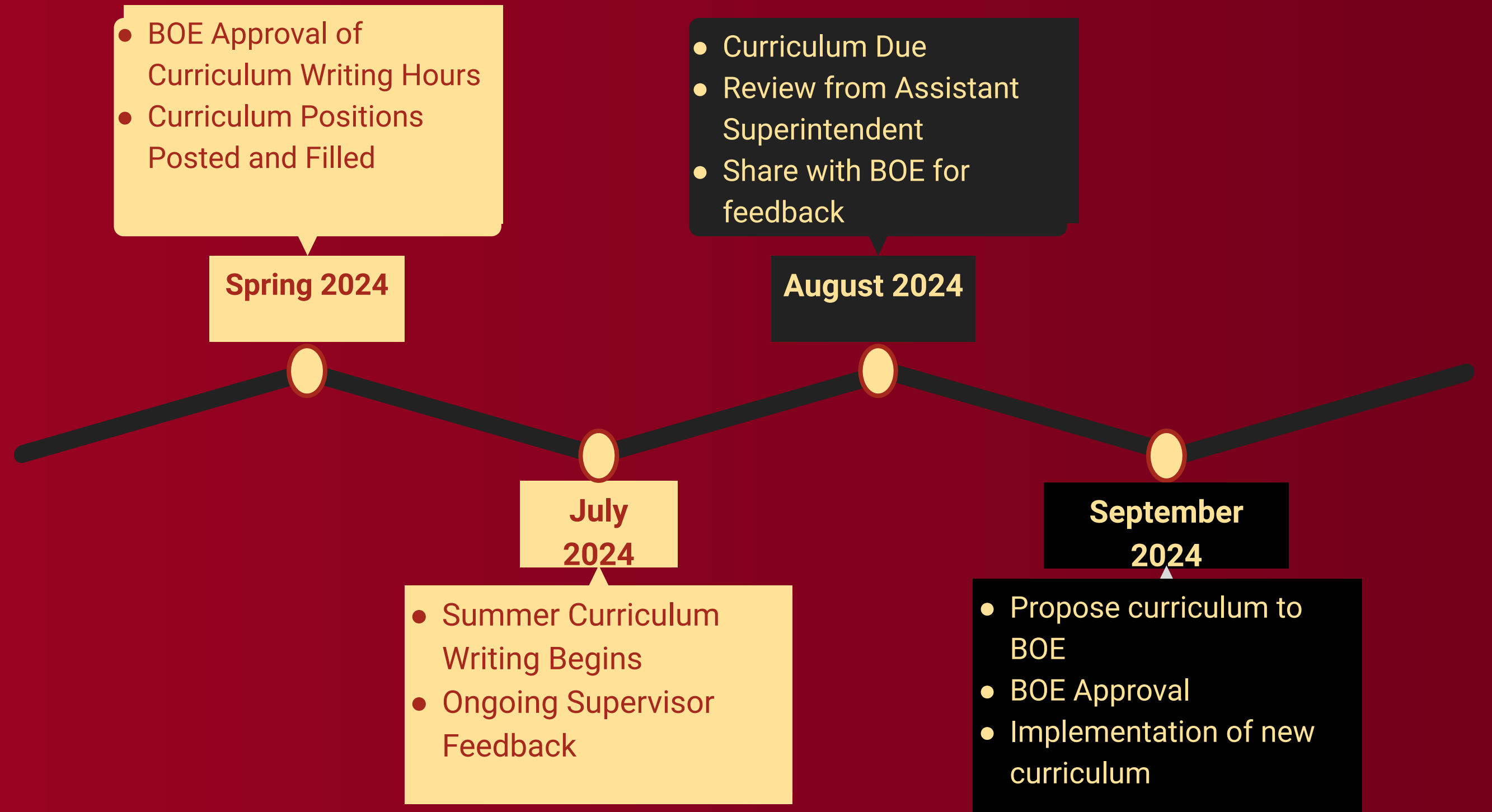
# Curriculum Updates

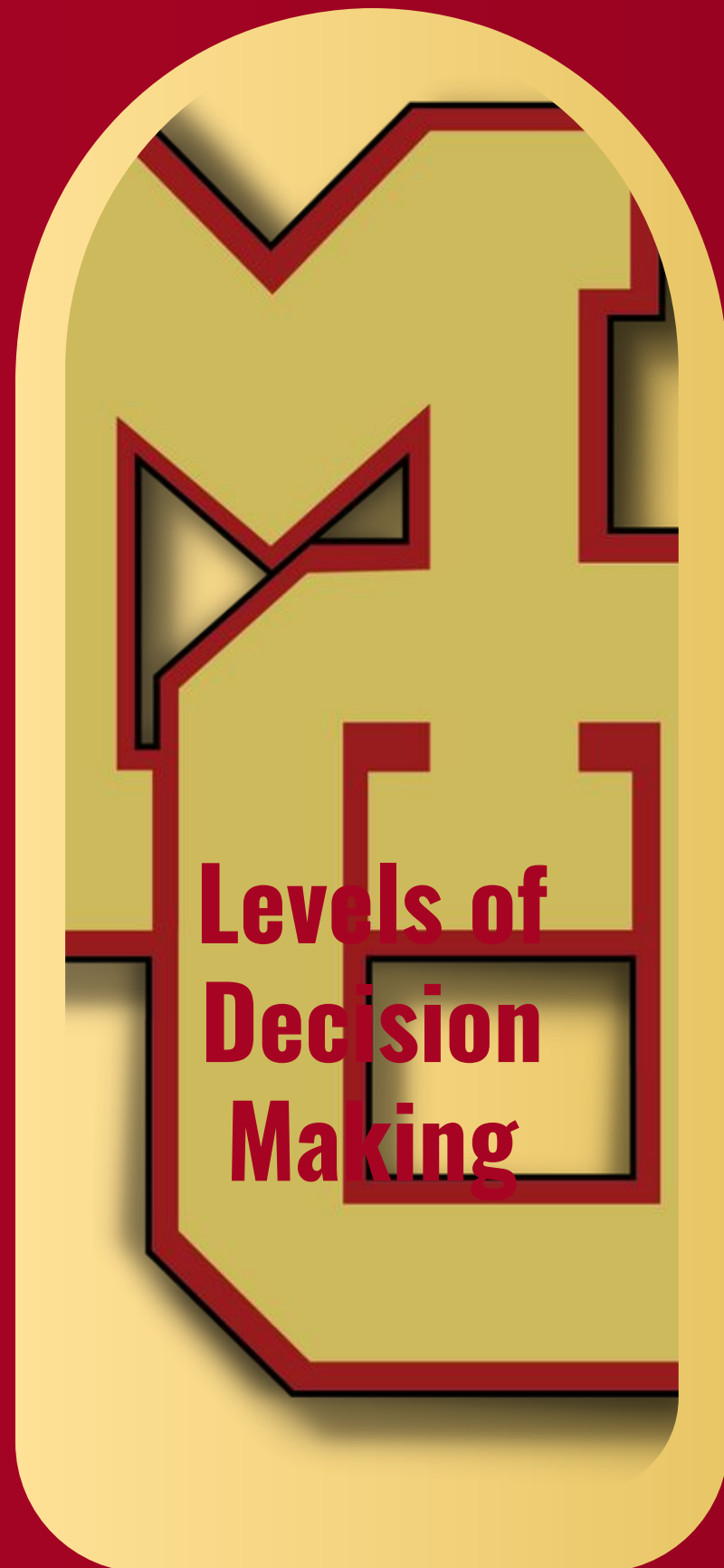


2024-25 School Year

Monday, September 23, 2024



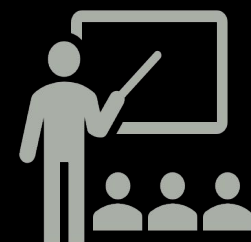




State Level: Develop standards, which define for teachers, school leaders and parents what students are expected to know by the end of the year



District Level: Develop curriculum, including which textbook, resources and programs to use.



Classroom Level: Develop lesson plans that interpret curriculum to meet the varied needs of students in their classroom.

# What are the New Jersey Student Learning Standards?



## NJSLS Goals:

- a) *Prepare students for postsecondary success*
- b) *The foundation on which districts build coherent curriculum and plan instruction to prepare each New Jersey student with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in our rapidly changing world.*

- Research-based standards
- Clear and consistent learning goals PK-12
- Covers 9 content areas
- Designed with input from numerous sources: educators from kindergarten through college, scholars, assessment developers, professional organizations, parents and students, and members of the public





## Why Revise Curriculum?

- NJSLS are updated and/or revised
- State statutes require curricular revisions (e.g. Climate Change, Individuals with Disabilities and LGBT, Diversity and Inclusion, Amistad, Holocaust)
- District adopts new programs or textbooks
- New research
- District creates new courses
- Trends in student performance
- State monitoring and audit feedback or requirements



# Department Presentations



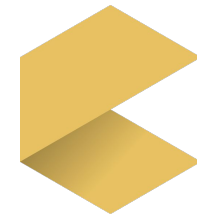
Supervisors

# Program Goals and Outcomes: Music



## Program Goals

- Foster Musical Literacy
- Develop Comprehensive Musical Skills
- Promote Ensemble Collaboration
- Encourage Artistic Expression
- Build Performance Skills
- Support Personal Growth and Development
- Integrate Performance Technology
- Promote Creativity and Artistic Expression
- Enhance Technical and Practical Skills
- Prepare for Real-World Applications



## Program Outcomes

- Improved Musical Competence
- Effective use of Music Technology
- Creative and Artistic Achievement
- Successful Application of Skills
- Increased Career Readiness
- Enhanced Personal and Social Skills
- Broadened Musical Perspectives

# Curriculum Revision Highlights:

## Music

- Update and integrate the 2020 New Jersey Visual and Performing Arts Standards into all curriculum
- Integration across disciplines - cross discipline and collaborative between classes
- Enhanced Music and Pop Culture Class
- Comprehensive Ensemble Experience
- Advanced Audio Engineering Curriculum
- Project Based and Real World Learning
- Career and College Readiness
- Technology Integration
- Cultural and Historical Context
- Professional Development for Educators



# New Courses: Songwriting and Music Technology

## Songwriting and Music Technology

Course Overview: This course offers students a hands on exploration of music composition and technology.

Key Topics: Digital Audio Workstations (Logic Pro) - Learn to navigate and utilize DAWs for music production.

MIDI - understand and apply MIDI technology for music creation.

Sampling and Loops - Explore techniques for incorporating samples and loops into compositions.

## Why New Course?

A high school course on songwriting and music technology using Logic Pro will provide students with practical, industry-relevant skills and enhances their creative, technical, and professional abilities.

The class aligns with modern trends in music production, supports career readiness, and enriches the school's music curriculum.

# Points of Pride:

## Music

### Diverse and Inclusive Course Offerings

**Broad Range of Courses:** The curriculum caters to a wide range of interests and skill levels, from traditional music ensembles to cutting-edge technology and pop culture analysis, providing students with multiple avenues to explore their passions for music.

**Cultural Relevance:** The inclusion of a pop culture class alongside traditional music ensembles ensures that students engage with contemporary musical trends and understand their impact on society.

### Innovative and Modern Technology

**State-of-the-Art Technology:** The high school audio engineering and songwriting classes use industry-standard software, giving students access to modern tools and techniques used in professional music production.

**Creative Exploration:** The curriculum encourages students to experiment with various music genres, technologies, and creative processes, fostering student innovation and artistic growth.

### Community and School Impact

**Enhanced School Reputation:** Offering a comprehensive and innovative music curriculum strengthens the school's reputation for providing cutting-edge and inclusive educational programs.

**Community Engagement:** School performances and projects, such as community concerts, foster connections with the local community and showcase the students' talents.

# Program Goals and Outcomes: Mathematics

## Program Goals

- **Align with New New Jersey Mathematics Standards**
- New Jersey Student Learning Standards have been updated and will take affect 2025-2026 school year.
- Most of the secondary math changes to the NJSLS are at the 8th grade level.
- **Improve Scope and Sequence**
- Current scope and sequence favored Pre-Algebra and Algebra 1 topics, while not covering enough depth and breadth of Geometry.
- Revise curriculum to cover all standards needed, while focusing time on important standards that the state has identified as “Major Clusters”.
- **Improve Student Transfer to Word Problems/Real Life Application**
- Improving transfer of skills via student’s reading and writing abilities is crucial in preparation for the NJSLA.

## Program Outcomes

- Math 8 Students will be prepared and supported to move onto Algebra 1 and be successful on the 8th grade Math NJSLA.
- AP Precalculus Students will be supported to take college level calculus through deeper understanding of key pre-calculus content.



# Curriculum Revision Highlights: Mathematics

## Math 8 Updates

### ★Unit Calendar and Timeline

- Teachers now have a detailed outline of when and where specific standards will be taught.

### ★Critical Transfer and Problem-Solving

- Teachers have access to key Transfer Tasks that will allow them to introduce and investigate new topics while practicing and preparing for NJSL type questions.

### ★Standards have been Aligned with the new NJSL

## AP Precalculus

### ★Aligned with Collegeboard Scope & Sequence

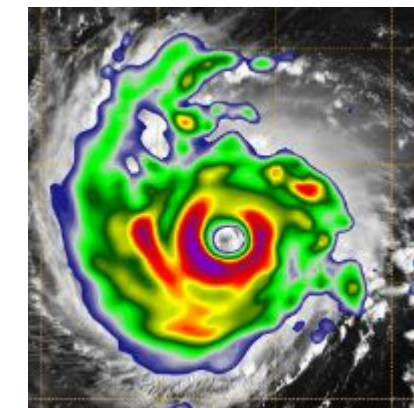
### ★Key Free Response questions integrated into each unit

### ★Highlighted units needed for AP Calculus BC Preparation.



Unit 1 Transfer Task:

### *Anatomy of a Hurricane*



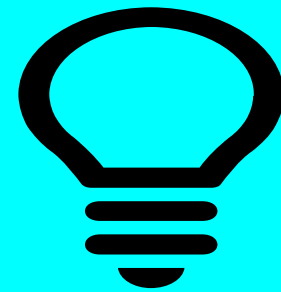
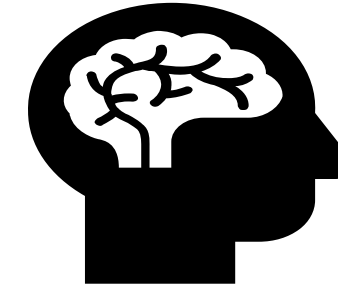
Students will explore how to use linear equations to model important characteristics of hurricanes.

# New Courses: Mathematics

New Course Name	Purpose	Benefits
AP Precalculus	To provide the opportunity for students to take this new AP course offered through Collegeboard.	This course will allow students the chance to receive college credit. It will help better prepare students for AP Calculus BC.



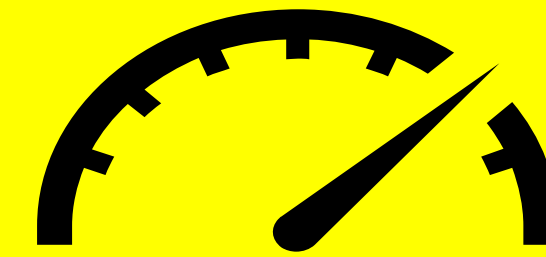
# Points of Pride: Mathematics



Transfer Tasks



Organized &  
Consistent



Dedicated to Data  
Analysis for  
student  
improvement

# Program Goals and Outcomes: English

## Program Goals

- Ensure that all students have the ability to think critically, analyze the written word, and communicate effectively through writing, speaking, and presenting so that they are college and career ready upon graduation.

## Program Outcomes

- By engaging students in diverse texts and various forms of expression, encouraging analytical thinking, and empowering students' to articulate their ideas effectively, the English program of studies aims to cultivate proficient, critical, and creative communicators that will find success in a global society.

# Curriculum Revision Highlights: English Department

- **ELA 6**

- Focus on developmentally appropriate overarching theme of “change”
- Created opportunities for interdisciplinary instruction and assessment
- Specified the writing profile of a 6th-grade MOMS students
- Opportunity for autonomy with revised book clubs

- **ELA 7**

- Focus on the themes of citizenship and leadership
- Created opportunities for interdisciplinary instruction and assessment
- Specified the writing profile of a 7th-grade MOMS students
- Opportunity for autonomy with revised book clubs

# Curriculum Revision Highlights: English Department

- **English III College Prep & English III Honors**

- Unit themes build upon each other guiding students towards self-discovery and ending with the college essay/ memoir.
- Inclusion of book club unit providing students with autonomy
- Differentiation - scaffolding, student products, reading level of core material

- **English IV Honors**

- Units begin with an exploration of identity and move towards discussions of the individual and society.
- Focuses on increasing rigor, especially with regards to purpose and format of writing.
- Ends in a culminating advocacy project

- **Creative Writing**

- Integrated additional mentor texts to model unique writing techniques
- Inclusion of additional student autonomy with regards to product throughout the semester



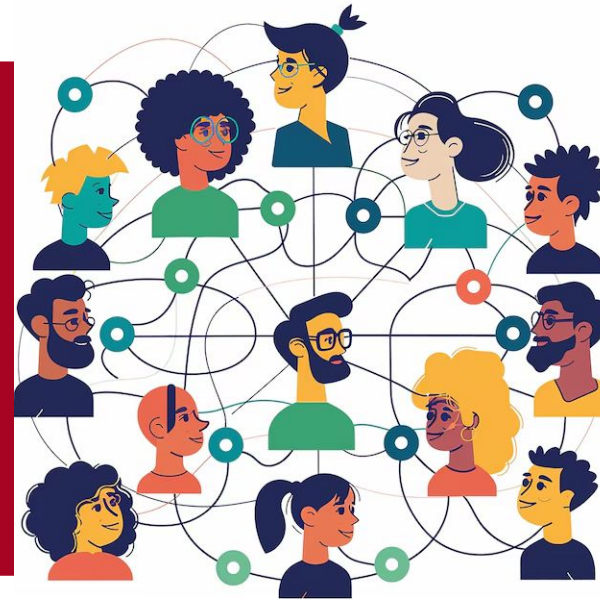
# Points of Pride: English Department



## **Diverse and Inclusive Curriculum**

Selected literature used to support the curriculum is intended to provide windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors for students.

Choice and self-selection built into curricula



## **Development of Transfer Goals and Transfer Tasks**

Support real-world application of literacy skills and themes found in literature



## **Focus on the Scope and Sequence of Writing Instruction**

Development of markers of success for each grade level

Review of new New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts



# New Course: Visual & Performing Arts

## Unified Introduction to Theatre (Peer Buddies)

This course provides a unique opportunity for students with and without disabilities to come together through ongoing hands on activities. Unified students work collaboratively to develop vocational skills, social skills, and friendships. Neurotypical students who choose to be a part of this class will participate in training opportunities throughout the school year. Additionally, the class supports the development of leadership skills for all students as well as the empowerment of all students to foster an inclusive class and school-wide environment.

Following a basic introduction to drama, the process of production is emphasized with practical experience in each theatrical aspect. Students learn basic acting skills and study make-up, costumes, and theatrical history. Students have numerous opportunities to perform for small audiences in readings, acting scenes, and one-act play. In addition, students learn what it means to be an active listener and audience member.

# Curriculum Updates in Social Studies

## Mount Olive Middle School

6th grade: U.S. History

7th grade: Civics & Early Civilizations

8th grade: World History



## Mount Olive High School

Electives: Sociology

Ancient Civilizations



# Program Goals and Outcomes: Social Studies

## Program Goals

- **Develop Civic Literacy:**
- Equip students with the knowledge of democratic principles, government structures, and the responsibilities of citizenship.
- **Enhance Critical Thinking:**
- Encourage analytical thinking by teaching students how to evaluate sources, interpret data, and make informed decisions.
- **Build Historical Understanding:**
- Provide a strong foundation in local, national, and world history.
- Teach students to understand historical events and trends within broader social, economic, and political contexts.

## Program Outcomes

- **Civic Engagement:**
- Students demonstrate understanding of their civic duties and rights
- **Critical Analysis and Problem-Solving:**
- Students are able to critically analyze historical and current events, understand the complexity of issues, and propose evidence-based solutions.
- **Lifelong Engagement with Social Studies:**
- Students leave the program with a sustained interest in social studies, continuing to engage with historical, civic, and cultural content throughout their lives remaining informed and active participants in both local and global discussions.



# Curriculum Revision Highlights: Social Studies

## **Streamlined**

- Streamlined grades 6,7, & 8 to accommodate new civic standards and to establish solid start and end points for each grade level.

## **Emphasis on Inquiry-Based Learning**

- Inquiry-based approach where students investigate historical events, civic issues, and cultural phenomena.

## **Incorporation of Diverse Perspectives**

- Expand content to highlight the contributions of diverse groups in history

## **Skills Development**

- Focus on developing essential skills such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and problem-solving.
- Emphasize the application of these skills in analyzing historical events and understanding societal issues.

# Points of Pride: Social Studies



## **Strong Civic Education Program**

Students actively participate in civic activities, such as mock elections, debates, and simulation projects.

Students can articulate and defend their viewpoints on contemporary civic issues.



## **Use of Technology and Digital Literacy**

Integrate digital tools and resources into the curriculum to enhance learning and prepare students for the digital age.

Teach students how to critically evaluate digital information, identify misinformation, and responsibly use technology in research and presentations.



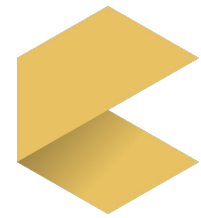
## **Innovative Teaching Methods**

High levels of student engagement and achievement through project-based learning, where students take ownership of their studies and apply what they learn to real-world issues.

Create connections between social studies and other disciplines such as literature, science, and economics.

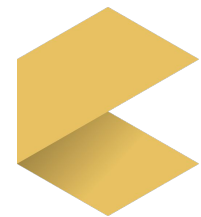


# Program Goals and Outcomes: Science, Innovation & Design



## **Program Goals**

- Foster an inclusive and engaging environment in the sciences and technical fields.
- Prioritize the Science and Engineering Practices to enable students to investigate, sensemake, and critique when engaging with data, real-world problems, and evidence.
- Expose students to a wide array of hands on technical courses.
- Career exposure



## **Program Outcomes**

- Develop students who have an interest and fluency in a broad range of scientific concepts and processes throughout their lives.
- Increased performance on the NJSLA-Science assessment.
- Continued improvement and growth to AP enrollment and scores.
- Students develop capabilities to solve problems from a theoretical and applied perspective

# Curriculum Revision Highlights:

## Science

### Mount Olive Middle School

#### • **Science 6 - Science 7 - Science 8**

- 3 courses written with members of each grade level with a focus on vertical alignment.
- Redistribution of topics to balance the spiraling model of Earth Sciences, Biological Science, and Physical Sciences each year.
- Focus on Student Engagement and Science Practices

### Mount Olive High School

#### • **AP Physics 1**

- College Board Updated Curriculum 24-25
- Freshman Specific Offering

#### • **AP Physics 2** - \*New Course Offering\*

- Expands our offerings to students who are looking for an entry level AP offering

#### • **AP Physics C** - \*New Course Offering/Revision\*

- Update to Mechanics and inclusion of EM for the first time in district
- College Board Updated Curriculum 24-25

#### • **AP Environmental Science**

- Modernize our offering to mirror The College Board expectations.

# Curriculum Revision Highlights: Innovation & Design

## Mount Olive High School

- Revisions
  - **Makers Playground**
    - Update to the makerspace program
  - **Engineering**
    - Updated course to expose students to the general principles of engineering and the varying specialties
  - **Introduction to Robotics**
    - Update to incorporate Drones and Underwater Robotics
  - **Materials Processing**
    - Update to Advanced Woods - Students will have exposure to differing media and equipment
  - **Modern Gaming Theory**
    - Exposure to Esports and Choice Theory
- New Courses
  - **Automotive**
    - Course focusing on understanding the function and interplay of different systems within vehicles.
    - Students will build an engine as the culminating project
  - **Environmental Technologies**
    - Course focusing on the interplay of technology/engineering with Environmental issues

# Points of Pride:

## Science, Innovation & Design

### Opportunity

Wide range of courses that cater to all student interests and abilities.

Mindset that STEM is for everybody.

### Real World Skill Development

Students learn to analyze and interpret data, a skill crucial in today's data-driven world. This involves understanding statistical significance, recognizing patterns, and drawing conclusions based on evidence.

Exposure to tools like 3D printers, coding platforms, and digital microscopes gives students a head start in understanding and utilizing the technology that drives innovation in various fields.

### Real World Connection

The curriculum goes beyond textbooks by integrating current events, such as climate change, public health, and technological advancements, into daily learning experiences. This approach helps students connect with the content and skills of the different fields.



# THANK YOU



Curriculum Presentation 2024