



MANHASSET PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Excellence Through Effort

2025-2026 Course Enhancement:
Status Report and Future Recommendations

Manhasset Board of Education
November 21, 2024

Presenters

Dr. Rebecca Chowske

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Lauren Tallarine

District Director of Mathematics and Business

Margaret Ronai

Coordinator of Social Studies

Christina Lang

Coordinator of World Languages and English as a New Language

Brendan McGowan

District Director of ELA, Reading, & Libraries

Michael O'Connell

Coordinator of Science and Technology



Our Focus:

Inspire Growth in Every Student

Our primary goal is to utilize standards, practices and programs to engage every student in challenging and enriching work....



2024-2025 Action Step Update

✓ = Complete.
▲ = In progress.

24-25 Initiatives – Action Steps and Timelines

Priority Area No. 1: Inspire Growth In Every Student

Initiative 1: Revise and enhance our Response to Intervention Plan to include a multi-tiered system of support. Target Date: June, 2027		
Action Steps	Target Date	Person Responsible
1. The Elementary Administrative Team will engage in an initial review of our RtI Plan and review research based best practices in RtI and MTSS.	June, 2025	Rebecca Chowske, Laura Peterson, Ryan Aliperti
2. Assemble a committee of stakeholders to include K-12 teachers, teacher assistants, and K-12 administrators who will meet 6 times in 24-25 to make recommendations to improve the District's RtI Plan.	November, 2025 (Launch Date)	Rebecca Chowske, Laura Peterson, Ryan Aliperti

Initiative 2: Strengthen co-teaching team partnerships and instructional practices. Target date: June 2026		
Action Steps	Target Date	Person Responsible
1. Provide high quality coaching to all co-teaching teams throughout the school year. (12 elementary and 15 secondary coaching sessions will be completed prior to June, 2026)	June, 2026	Laura Peterson
2. Provide three targeted professional development sessions to the Administrative Team on coaching strategies focused on differentiation and co-teaching	June, 2026	Rebecca Chowske, Laura Peterson

Initiative 3: Revise the Elementary Report Card to strengthen response to student needs and communication between home and school. Target date: June 2027		
Action Steps	Target Date	Person Responsible
1. Assemble a committee of stakeholders to include teachers, administrators, and parent representatives.	November, 2024 (Launch Date)	Rebecca Chowske, Chad Altman, Jessica Zimmer
2. The committee will meet at least four times between November and June to review the current report card for curricular and standard alignment.	June, 2025	Rebecca Chowske, Chad Altman, Jessica Zimmer

Initiative 4: Assess and align enrichment opportunities offered at each grade level at both elementary schools, including projects that boost academic research skills in grades 3-6. Target date: June 2025		
Action Steps	Target Date	Person Responsible
1. Conduct an evaluation of enrichment opportunities and research projects in each grade level.	November, 2024	Directors/Coordinators
2. Develop comparable interdisciplinary enrichment and research projects for grades 3-6 as necessary.	Spring, 2025	Directors/Coordinators

Action Step Update



= Complete.



= In progress.

Initiative 6:

Conduct a comprehensive review of our Secondary School Instructional Program with an emphasis on:

- exploring advanced diploma seals.
- developing career-oriented curricular pathways.
- evaluating classes offering special instructional pacing (e.g. Algebra 9A, 10A, Applied Geometry, Intermediate Algebra, Applied Chemistry, and Applied Physics).

Target date: June 2026

Action Steps	Target Date	Person Responsible
1. Explore the Seal of Biliteracy and determine the feasibility of offering this diploma seal opportunity to our students.	November, 2024	Christina Lang
2. Explore the Seal of Civic Readiness and determine the feasibility of offering this diploma seal opportunity to our students.	November, 2025	Margaret Ronai
3. Plan for the expansion of the Secondary School's Business Pathway by conducting a course gap analysis to identify existing curriculum strengths, potential areas for growth, and alignment with post-secondary programs.	November, 2024	Lauren Tallarine
4. Explore the creation of a Medical Sciences Pathway by assessing current student interest, identifying key industry partnerships, and ensuring alignment with post-secondary programs.	November, 2024	Michael O'Connell
5. Explore the creation of an Information Technology Pathway assessing current student interest, identifying key industry partnerships, and ensuring alignment with post-secondary programs.	November, 2026	Lauren Tallarine
6. Evaluate courses offering special instructional pacing to determine if support can be provided to students through differentiation and supplemental support courses, rather than separating students into specially paced classes.	November, 2024	Lauren Tallarine and Michael O'Connell
7. Engage teachers and administrators in a review of course entrance requirements and pathways, with a focus on exploring self-selection for Honors/AP courses rather than relying on minimum grade requirements and teacher recommendations, to promote student autonomy in pursuing advanced course work.	November, 2025	Rebecca Chowske, Richard Roder, Kerry Fallon, Directors/Coordinators



Presentation Overview by Department

- New Course proposals for 2025-2026
- Re-Introduced and modified courses for 2025-2026
- Status Report on courses introduced in 2024-2025
- Initiative updates

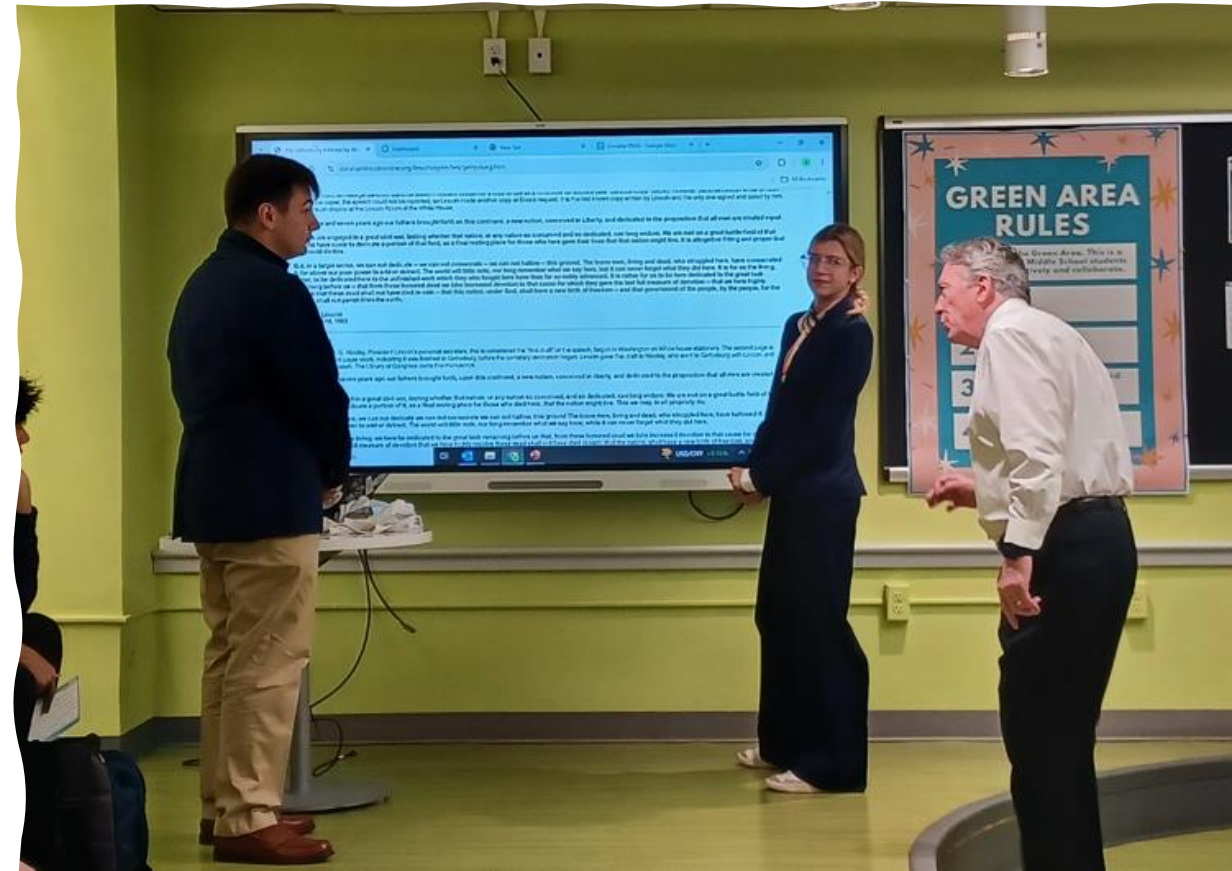
Mathematics and Business

Lauren Tallarine



Update: Virtual Enterprise (New in 24-25)

- Virtual firm launch
- Trade show participation
- Guest investors
- Full year, grades 11 & 12



New for 2025-2026:

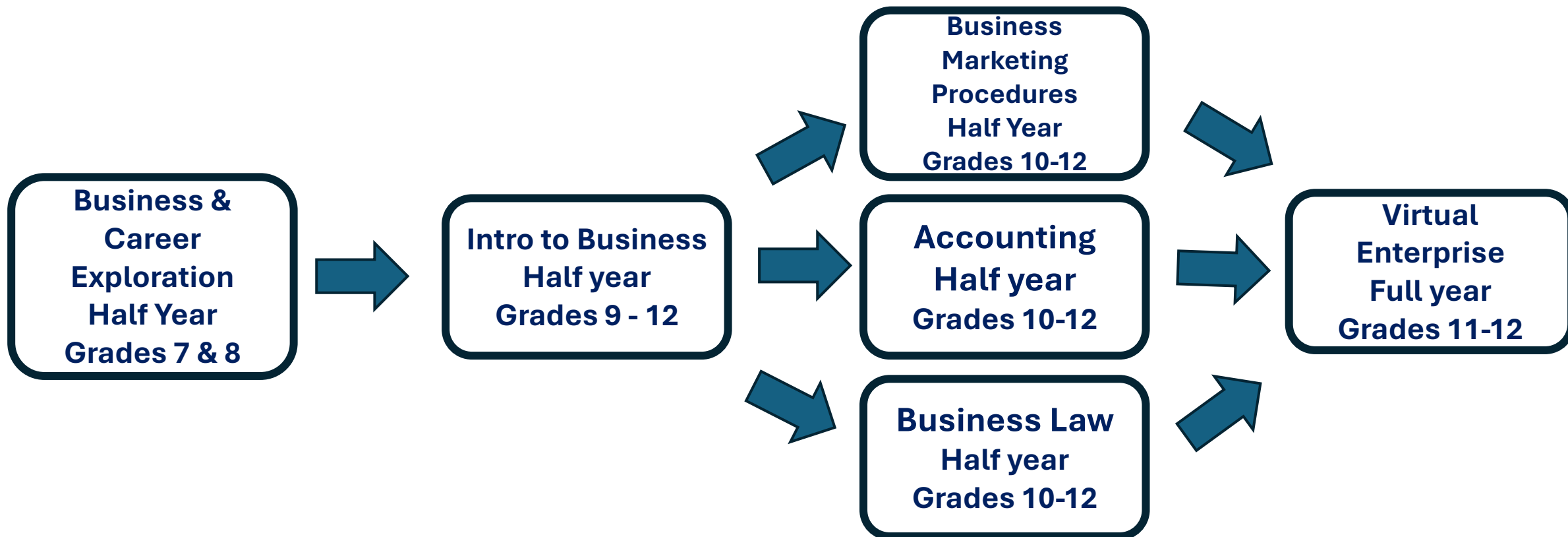
Virtual Enterprise
Dual-Enrollment College Credit from LIU Post
Full year (6 credits)

- Management (3 credits)
- Foundations of Entrepreneurship (3 credits)

Business Communication
Dual-Enrollment Credit from LIU Post
Half year (3 credits)



Current Entrepreneurship Pathway



Future Considerations:

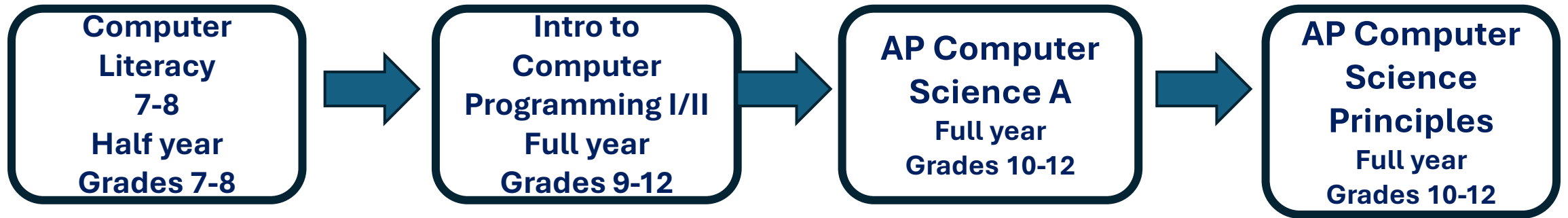
Business Communication
Half year
Grades 10-12
2025-2026

Personal Finance
Half Year
Grades 10-12
2026-2027

Investments
Half year
Grades 10-12
2027-2028

Work-Based Learning
Grade 12

Current Computer Science Pathway



Future Considerations:





Science and Technology

Michael O'Connell



Update of 2024-2025 Proposals:

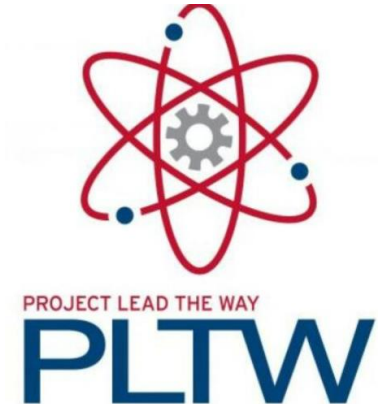
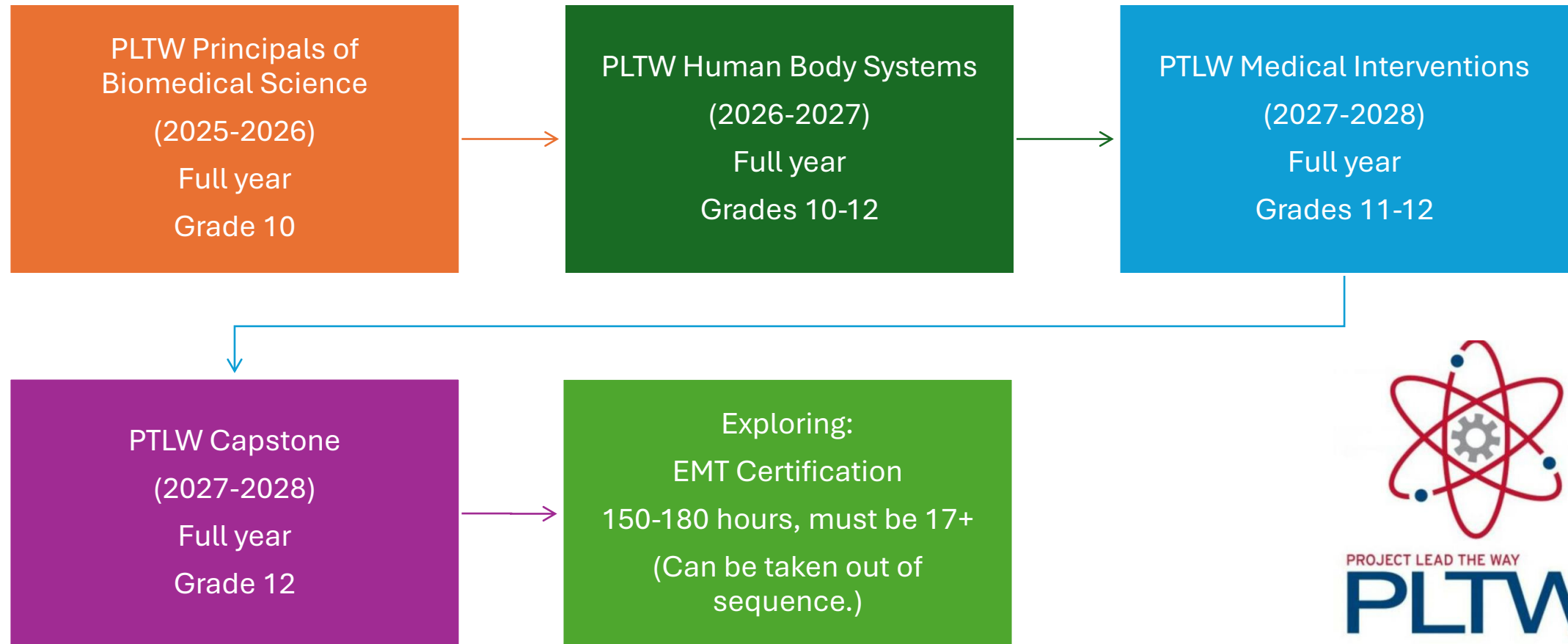
Full implementation of Project Lead the Way K-5

Robotics Club entering Vex Robotics Competitions

Curriculum Revision: Life Science: Biology
(First local administration, June 2026)

Curriculum Revision: Earth and Space Sciences
(First local administration, June 2026)

New: Biomedical Science Pathway



English and Reading

Brendan J. McGowan





Update: Broadcast Pathway

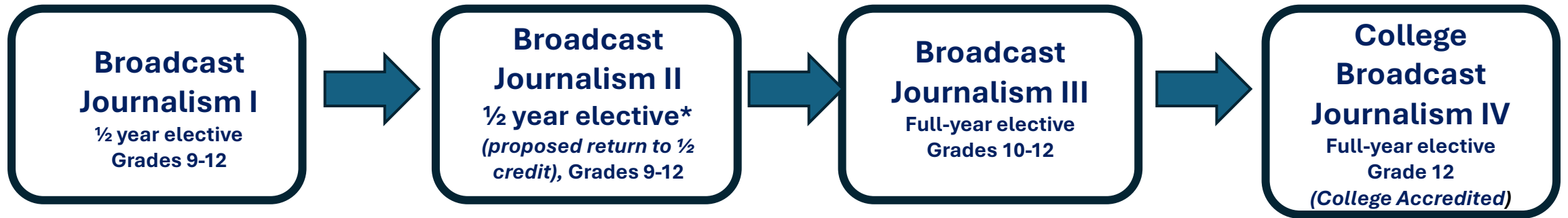
Proposal to change Broadcast II back from a full-year elective counting for 1 credit to a ½ year elective earning ½ a credit.

Was originally a ½ year course.

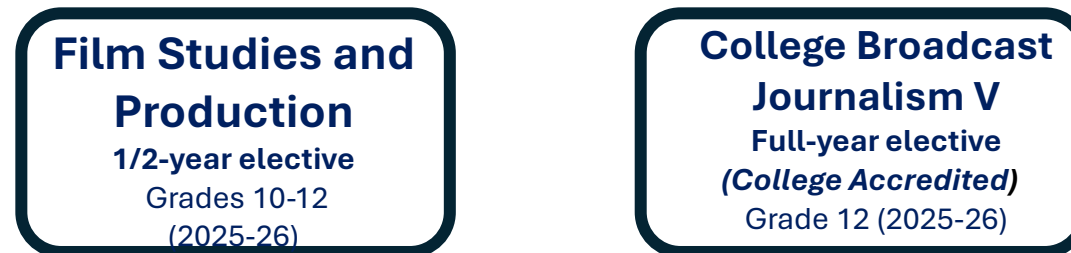
(Grades 9-12)



Current Broadcast Pathway



Future Considerations:





Broadcast Pathway: Next Steps

Film Studies and Production (2025-2026)

Creation of film making course utilizing foundational broadcast coursework with hands-on project-based learning experiences.
Prerequisite of Broadcast II. (1/2 year, Grades 10-12)

College Broadcast Journalism V (2025-26)

Planned partnership with Hofstra University for college credit.
Culminating course of Broadcast Pathway.
Prerequisite of Broadcast IV. (Full year, Grade 12)

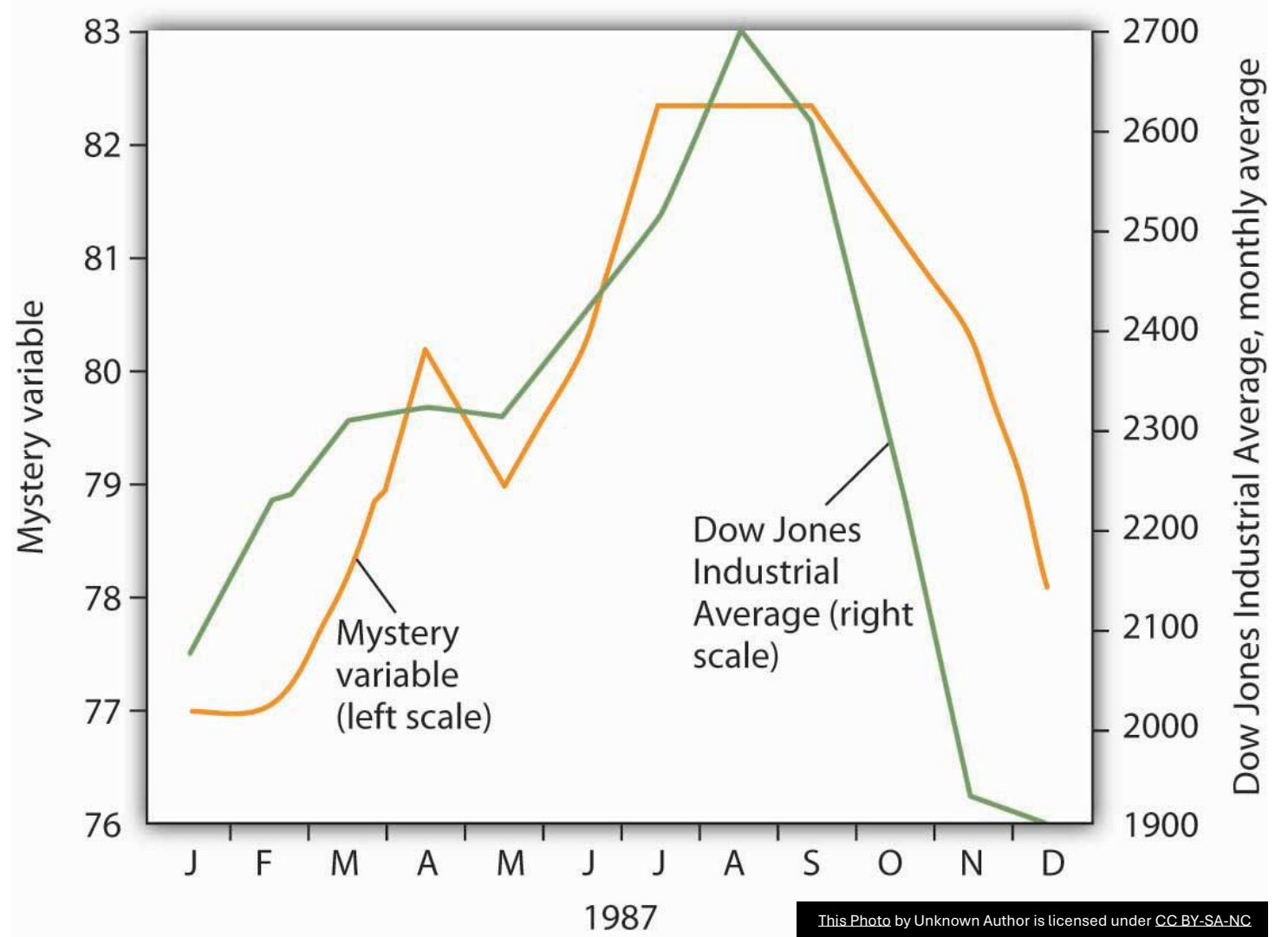


Social Studies

Margaret Ronai

Update: AP Macroeconomics

- Full year, 12th grade
- Due to the introduction of this course, we now have 38% of 12th grade enrolled in AP Economics courses



New for 2025-2026



AP Comparative Government

Full year elective for grades 11,12



Introduction to Law

Half year elective for grades 9,10,11,12



Social Studies 9A

Renamed to 9 Honors Global History and
Geography

Full year, grade 9

Under Exploration: Seal of Civic Readiness

- The Seal of Civic Readiness is a formal recognition that a student has attained a high level of proficiency in terms of civic knowledge, civic skills, civic mindset, and civic experiences. The Seal of Civic Readiness distinction on a high school transcript and diploma:
- shows the student's understanding of a commitment to participatory government; civic responsibility and civic values;
- demonstrates to universities, colleges, and future employers that the student has completed an action project in civics or social justice; and
- recognizes the value of civic engagement and scholarship.





World Languages

Christina Lang

Update: Chinese 1-1 (7th grade) 2024-2025

Class Enrollment & Progress

- Students are progressing well and actively engaging in the lessons.



New for 2025-2026

Continuation of the Chinese Pathway

Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030
Chinese 1-1 	Chinese 1-2	Chinese 2	Chinese 3	Chinese 4	AP Chinese

New for 2025-2026

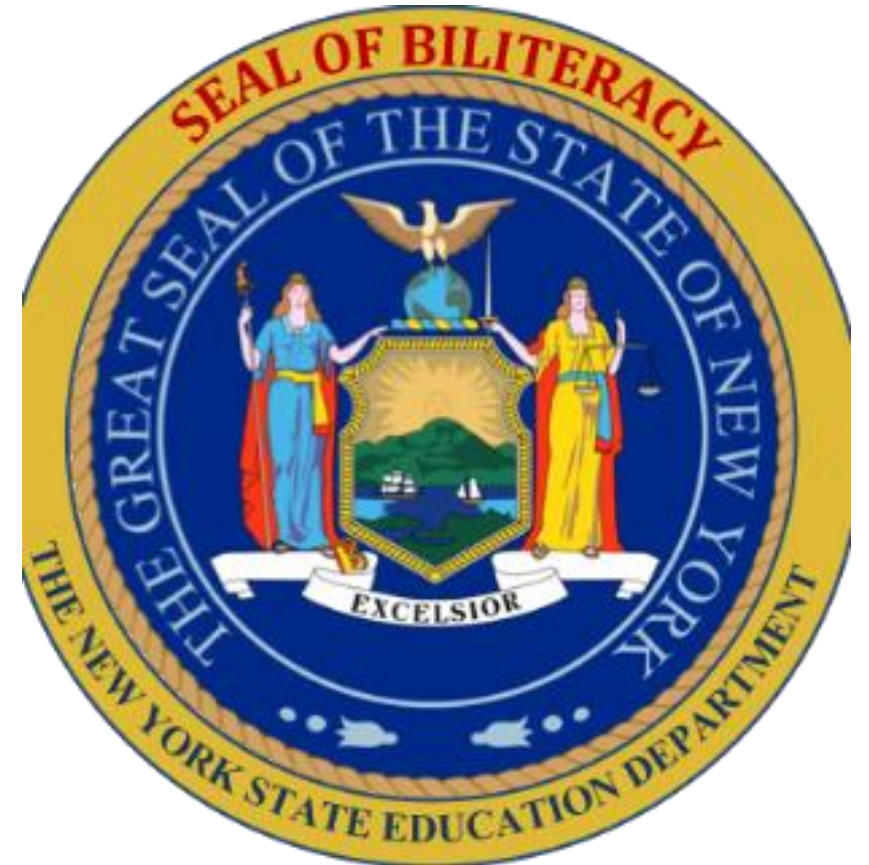
- **Italian 1 (full-year, grades 8-12)**
 - Students will earn a High School credit
 - Open to students in grades 9-12
 - Support transfer and ENL students
 - Provide more scheduling opportunities
 - Opportunity to take a second language – especially for those who are ahead



NYS Seal of Biliteracy Overview

In recognition of bilingualism, many states, including New York, award a Seal of Biliteracy to students who achieve high proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. The intent of the Seal includes:

- Encouraging the study of languages
- Identifying graduates with language and biliteracy skills for employers
- Providing universities with additional information about applicants
- Preparing students with twenty-first century skills
- Affirming the value of diversity in a multilingual and global society
- Students who earn the Seal will receive a seal affixed to their diplomas and a medal at graduation.
- Proposing to begin this for the process for the 2025-2026 school year



Criteria for Earning the Seal of Biliteracy

CRITERIA FOR DEMONSTRATING PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH	POINT VALUE	CRITERIA FOR DEMONSTRATING PROFICIENCY IN A WORLD LANGUAGE	POINT VALUE
1A. Score 80 or higher on the NYS Regents Examination in English Language Arts** or English Language Learners (ELLs) score 75 or above on two Regents exams other than English**, without translation.	1	2A. Complete a Checkpoint C level World Language course, with a grade of 85 or higher, or a comparable score using another scoring system set by the district and approved by the Commissioner, consistent with Checkpoint C standards.	1
1B. ELLs earn an overall score of 290 or better on the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) during 9th-12th grades.	1	2B. Provide transcripts from a school in a country outside of the U.S. showing at least three years of instruction in the student's home/native language in Grade 8 or beyond, with an equivalent grade average of B or higher.	1
1C. Complete all 11th- and 12th-grade ELA courses with an average of 85 or higher or a comparable score using another scoring system set by the district and approved by the Commissioner.	1	2C. For students enrolled in a Bilingual Education program, complete all required Home Language Arts (HLA) coursework with an 85 or higher or a comparable score using another scoring system set by the district and approved by the Commissioner.	1
1D. Score at a proficient level on an approved English assessment (See "Approved English Assessments" on page 50.)	1	2D. Score at a proficient level on an accredited Checkpoint C World Language assessment (See "Checkpoint C World Language Assessments and Minimum Scores" on pages 51-53.)	1
1E. Present a Culminating Project that meets the criteria for speaking, listening, reading, and writing established by the district's NYS Seal of Biliteracy Committee to a panel of reviewers with proficiency in English.	2	2E. Present a Culminating Project that meets the criteria for speaking, listening, reading, and writing established by the district's NYS Seal of Biliteracy Committee and that is aligned to the NYS Checkpoint C Learning Standards to a panel of reviewers with proficiency in the target language.	2



Additional Initiative Updates

Rebecca Chowske, Margaret Ronai, and
Brendan McGowan

Timeline for Review of Course Entrance Requirements and Pathways

Purpose and Goal of Review:

Purpose: Engage teachers and administrators in a review of course entrance requirements and pathways, with a focus on exploring self-selection for Honors/AP courses rather than relying on minimum grade requirements and teacher recommendations.

Goal: to promote student autonomy in pursuing advanced course work.

2024-2025 Timeline

- Review of override data by Central and Building Administration.
- Discuss the current policy and possible adjustments with faculty and students.
- Central and Building Administration submit a recommendation to the Superintendent for inclusion in the 2026-2027 catalog.



Elementary-Level Initiatives

Update: Deepening Enrichment Projects to Include Enhanced Research Skills

Grade	Munsey Park	Shelter Rock
3	Communities Around the World	Wax Museum
4	Colonial America Museum	Colonial America
5	Robotics/Kenya: Level Up Village	Robotics/Kenya: Level Up Village
6	Genius Hour/Egypt Project	Greek Project

Elementary-Level Initiatives:

Elementary Report Card Committee

- 20 members representing K-6
- Focus on alignment of curriculum, standards, skills, assessment, & effective parent communication
- Elementary teacher survey in process
- Review of three components:
 - Grading base (e.g., Mastery versus Standards-Based)
 - Comments
 - Inclusion of Habits of a Successful Student (e.g., executive functioning, Habits of Mind)

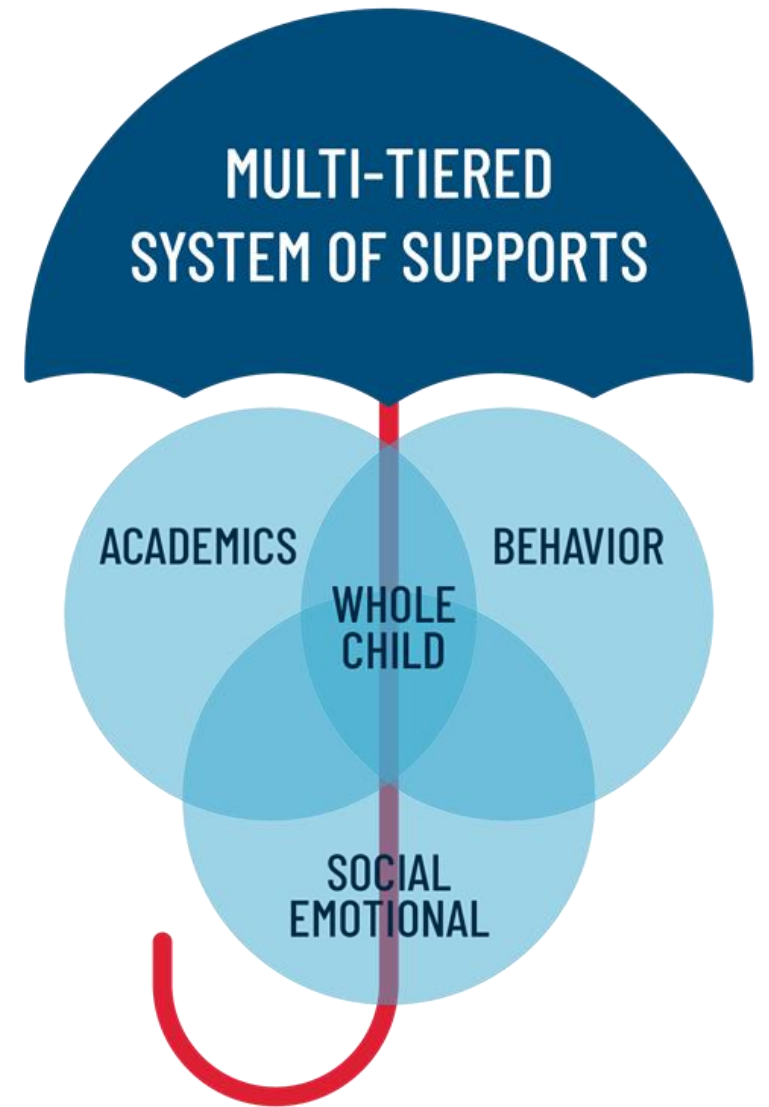
Includes regular feedback loops with parent representatives.



Elementary-Level Initiatives

Response to Intervention Plan Review

- Initial review by administration
- Focus on the need for Multi-Tiered System of Supports
- In process: Initial review and feedback of current plan by
 - Reading teachers
 - Math Specialists





Thank you!

Questions?



Inspire.
Connect.
Grow.

Manhasset Public Schools