

# **Livingston Public Schools New Course Offerings 2023-2024**

**Board of Education Meeting**  
December 6, 2022

# Math in Focus - Grade 5

- Continuation of our Math in Focus Sequencing
- Supported through Singapore Math and advocates eight mathematical habits:
  - persevering in problem solving
  - constructing viable arguments
  - using tools strategically
  - making use of structure
  - using mathematical reasoning
  - using mathematical models
  - using precise mathematical language
  - looking for patterns
- Students will learn the language of math through activities, explorations, practice, meaningful discussion, hands-on learning, visualization, pictorial representations, application, and problem solving.
- Through this course, students will build deep conceptual understanding, develop critical thinking skills, advance their problem-solving proficiency, build positive outcomes, and cultivate confidence to succeed as a mathematical learner.

# Introduction to Algebra and Geometry (Formerly Pre-Algebra 8)

- Rename the current Pre-Algebra 8 course to Introduction to Algebra and Geometry.
- The new name will more accurately reflect the content of the course.
- The NJSLs for grade 8 focus on preparing students for Algebra
- Introduces geometric concepts that will be expanded upon in the high school Geometry course.
- Most students in 7th grade take Pre-Algebra 7, which is based on the NJSLs for grade 7.
- Parents and students are often confused when they receive their math placement for grade because the courses have similar names.
- The name change will honor the differences between the 7th and 8th grade courses.

# AP African American Studies

- This course will be offered to students in grades 10-12 as part of the AP College Board Pilot Program.
- According to Dr. Nikki Taylor, Chair of Howard University History Department, *"A solid understanding of how African Americans have shaped America, its history, laws, institutions, culture and arts, and even the current practice of American democracy, sharpens all knowledge about our nation."*
- Through a multidisciplinary approach, students will be examining civil rights, politics, literature, the arts, and geography in addition to history.
  - During the pilot program, no AP Test will be administered.

# AP Microeconomics

- Currently, AP Economics is preparing students for two AP exams in a single course.
- Adding AP Microeconomics in the 2023-24 school year *alongside* AP Economics would allow students to select the course pacing best suited for their individual needs.
- In 2024-25, we plan to offer AP Macroeconomics alongside AP Economics.

# AP Precalculus

- The College Board will offer AP Precalculus for the first time in the spring of 2024.
- As per the College Board, AP Precalculus will serve three types of students:
  - Students starting in Algebra 1 in grade 9, who are interested in STEM majors, will be better prepared to take Calculus in college.
  - Students who take Algebra 1 before grade 9 will be better prepared for success in AP Calculus.
  - Students interested in non-STEM majors may be able to use a qualifying AP Precalculus Exam score to fulfill a college math course requirement.
- In AP Precalculus, students will explore everyday situations and phenomena using mathematical tools.
- Upon completing Algebra 2 CP or Algebra 2 Honors, students will have the option to enroll in Precalculus CP, Precalculus Honors, or AP Precalculus.

# AP Precalculus with Introduction to Calculus BC

- This course will replace Intro to Calculus BC Honors.
- This course will not only prepare students for the AP Precalculus Exam, but it will also ensure that students on track to take AP Calculus BC continue to receive the best preparation possible for the AP Calculus BC course.
- This course will include an additional unit on Derivatives
- Students who take AP Precalculus will have access to AP Calculus BC but will have additional summer assignments to frontload additional material.

## Dance 3

- Continuance of the Dance Program/ third year progression
- Option for semester Physical Education requirement
- Dance 3 will focus on style, clarity of movement, intent and delivery of artistic intent.
- Genres explored will include ballet, hip-hop, jazz, and modern dance.
- Students will study to work on master choreographers and work to create their own creative expression through improvisation, choreography, and performance.

## Introduction to Computer Assisted Design (CAD)

- This is a replacement course for both the Architecture CAD and Engineering and Product Design courses currently offered.
- Introduction to CAD will combine content from both the current Architecture CAD level 1 class and the Engineering and Product Design level 1 class.
- It is designed to expose students to the CAD and rendering softwares used to produce 2 and 3 dimensional drawings of ideas, concepts and solutions.
- Students will be encouraged to specialize in either Architecture CAD OR Engineering and Product Design in Level 2.

# Senior Mentors

- Senior Mentors is intended to serve as a dual purpose course:
  - To provide seniors with an opportunity to develop their skills as collaborative leaders
  - To provide first year students with support and guidance from peers as they transition to the high school while also providing a “go-to” peer mentor.
- Conceptually, we are looking to structure the course under the framework of the LPS Portrait of a Graduate.

## Virtual Enterprise (Formerly Global Business)

- Course Name Change
- The course is run using Virtual Enterprise International (VEI) software.
  - VEI is a business simulation program that creates authentic business experiences for students.
  - Many colleges and universities use the program and the change will provide an appropriate representation of the course.
- Many other schools use variations on the name Virtual Enterprise.

# World Religion

- World Religion will run as a semester elective course for students in grades 9-12.
- The goal of this course is to expose students to the experiences of religions throughout the world in order to build a deeper cultural understanding and participate in a diverse global society.
- In this course, students will learn the commonalities and uniquenesses between belief systems and investigate the relationship between religion and society.
- After examining these belief systems, students will identify links between religion and individual, national, and cultural identity.

# Thank You

