New Course Proposals 2026-2027

Education Committee Meeting
January 7, 2026

New Course Proposals

- PreAP English 2
- Introduction to Film
- Grade 7 & 8 Honors Science
- Grade 7 & 8 Honors Social Studies
- AP Precalculus
- AP Business with Personal Finance

PreAP English 2

Location: Rahway High School

Proposed Start of Course: 2026-2027 School Year

Course Length: Full Year Course

Grade Level: 9

Course Rationale

Purpose of the Course:

This course continues the Pre-AP English pathway by:

- Extending the skills developed in Pre-AP English 1 as students transition into high school expectations.
- Strengthening reading, writing, and discussion skills with increased text complexity and analytical rigor.
- Maintaining access to advanced coursework during Grade 9, supporting equity and continuity in the pathway.
- Ensuring curricular alignment and instructional consistency through shared Pre-AP frameworks and routines.
- Supporting teacher collaboration and professional learning using College Board resources.
- Preparing students for future success in AP English, college coursework, and postsecondary pathways.

Course Objectives

The course centers on five vertically aligned practices that students will revisit throughout the year:

1. **Reading Closely:** Analyzing a range of complex literary and informational texts
2. **Valuing Evidence:** Selecting and integrating relevant textual evidence in speaking and writing
3. **Noticing Language Choices:** Examining how language shapes meaning, tone, and reader response
4. **Investigating Through Research:** Asking questions, gathering information, and synthesizing findings
5. **Entering the Conversation:** Developing written and spoken responses that engage with texts and ideas

Course Structure and Content

Pre-AP English 2 consists of four units taught over the course of the year:

- Unit 1: Argument
- Unit 2: Persuasion in Literature
- Unit 3: Voice in Synthesis
- Unit 4: Purpose in Poetry and Prose

Criteria, Staffing, and Scheduling

Prerequisite: PreAP English 1

The criteria for this course will consult multiple data points, including:

- Teacher recommendations
- Report card grades
- Spring Star Diagnostic scores
- NJSLA scores

Staffing/Scheduling: No additional staffing or scheduling is required. *PreAP English 2* will replace one section of English I, depending on the number of students eligible for the course.

Course Sequence

Grade 8: Pre-AP English 1⇒

Grade 9: Pre-AP English 2⇒

Grade 10: English 10: AP Seminar⇒

Grade 11: AP Language and Composition⇒

Grade 12: AP Literature and Composition

Introduction to Film

Location: Rahway High School

Proposed Start of Course: 2026-2027 School Year

Course Length: Semester Course or Full Year Course

Grade Levels: 10-12

Course Rationale

Purpose of the Course:

- **Builds Critical Thinking & Media Literacy**
  Students analyze film techniques, themes, and perspectives to develop higher-order thinking skills used across academic disciplines.

- **Prepares Students for a Visual World**
  The course teaches students to critically interpret visual and digital media, an essential 21st-century literacy skill.

- **Supports Cross-Curricular Learning**
  Film connects to English Language Arts, Social Studies, Psychology, and the Arts by examining cultural, historical, and social contexts.

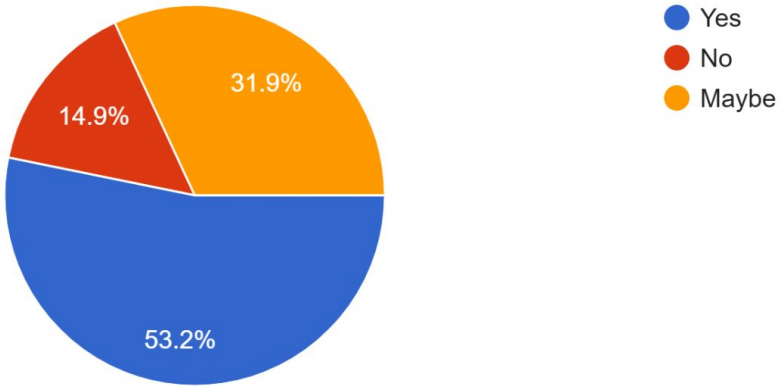
- **Engages Diverse Learners**
  Film provides an accessible entry point for analysis, offering multiple ways for students to engage while promoting equity and inclusion.

- **Introduces Career Pathways**
  Students explore potential careers in media, digital production, storytelling, and the arts.

Demand and Student Interest

If an Introduction to Film Study course was offered at RHS, would you select that course as an elective?

47 responses



Course Objectives

Learning Goals:

- Analyze and interpret film using cinematic techniques and key concepts
- Compare films across genres, cultures, and historical periods
- Examine film's relationship to social, political, and technological change
- Develop visual and media literacy skills
- Create original film-related projects and write critically about film

Standards Alignment:

- Aligns with New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) for ELA
- Supports media, visual, and digital literacy competencies
- Aligns with ISTE Standards for creativity, communication, and digital citizenship
- Reinforces interdisciplinary learning in the Arts and Social Studies

College Readiness:

- Prepares students for college-level coursework in film, media studies, communications, and English
- Strengthens analytical thinking, writing, and research skills
- Introduces pathways to media, arts, and digital production careers

Course Structure and Content

Based on student interest, this course will be offered as either a full-year or half-year program. The curriculum will include the following key topics:

- **Introduction to Film Language**
  Shot types, editing, lighting, sound, mise-en-scène
- **Genre Study**
  Film Noir, comedy, western, sci-fi, drama, Cinema Verite
- **Representation and Identity in Film**
  Race, gender, class, LGBTQ+ issues
- **Film and Society: Cinema as Cultural Mirror**
  Historical events and their depiction
- **Global Cinema**
  Films from Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe
- **The Director as Auteur**
  Analysis of works by directors like Hitchcock, Bong Joon-ho, Greta Gerwig, Jordan Peele
- **Final Project:** Critical Essay or Short Film

Criteria, Staffing, and Scheduling

Prerequisite: Since this is an introductory course, there would be no prerequisite coursework for students.
(1 year of *Speech and Broadcasting* would increase appreciation.)

Staffing/Scheduling: No additional staffing or scheduling is required. *Introduction to Film* will replace one section of Speech and Broadcasting and will be taught by the same instructor.

Academy Honors Courses

Course Name:

- Grade 7 Honors Science
- Grade 8 Honors Science
- Grade 7 Honors Social Studies
- Grade 8 Honors Social Studies

Location: Rahway 7th & 8th Grade Academy

Proposed Start of Course: 2026-2027 School Year

Course Length: Full Year Courses

Grade Levels: 7 & 8

Course Rationale

1. Academic Precision

- The honors science and social studies courses will match the complexity of the curriculum and standards to the cognitive readiness of high-achieving students. It moves students from memorizing facts to analyzing systems, providing the high-level challenge they require to remain engaged.

2. Targeted Differentiation

- Offering honors science and social studies courses allows for instructional equity and ensures that the learners who are ready to dive deeper into the science practices and standards are getting what they need.

3. The AP Pipeline

- Success in the high school's AP science and social studies courses begins in middle school with their foundational understanding and skills. Introducing a higher rigor at an earlier grade level creates a clearer pathway for students to take the most challenging science and social studies courses at the high school level.

Course Objectives and Content

Course Objectives

- The objective of the honors science and social studies courses at the Academy is to expose those students who are ready to a more rigorous and in-depth understanding of the standards and practices.

Course Content

- The standards addressed in the honors courses will be the same as the regular science and social studies courses, ensuring that all students are learning the grade appropriate standards

Criteria, Staffing, and Scheduling

Prerequisite: Successful completion of previous grade-level science or social studies course.

The criteria for these courses will consult multiple data points, including:

- Teacher recommendations
- Report card grades
- Spring iReady/Star Diagnostic scores
- NJSLA scores

Staffing/Scheduling: No additional staffing or scheduling is required. The honors science and social studies courses at the Academy will replace sections of the regular science courses, depending on the number of students eligible for the courses.

AP Precalculus

Location: Rahway High School

Proposed Start of Course: 2026-2027 School Year

Course Length: Full Year Course

Grade Levels: 10-12

Course Rationale

1. Bridge to Advanced Math and STEM Fields

- Provide students with a standardized, rigorous precalculus curriculum that ensures students possess the fundamental knowledge and skills required for success in AP science and math courses, as well a a wide range of college majors, including math, science, engineering, and more.

2. College Credit and Placement

- Allow students the opportunity to earn college credit or advanced placement by achieving a qualifying score on the AP Exam, thereby reducing college tuition costs and allowing them to immediately enroll in higher-level college courses.

3. Capstones Secondary Math Education

- For students who do not pursue calculus, the course offers a robust and comprehensive final high school math experience that focuses on functions, modeling, and real-world applications, which are highly relevant for business, social science, and general quantitative literacy.

Course Objective

AP Precalculus is focused heavily on the Mathematical Practices. Students should develop and apply the described skills on a regular basis over the span of the course. The three main practices covered throughout the course are:

1. Procedural and Symbolic Fluency

- Algebraically manipulate functions, equations, and expressions.

2. Multiple Representations

- Translate mathematical information between representations.

3. Communication and Reasoning

- Communicate with precise language, and provide rationales for conclusions.

Course Structure and Content

AP Precalculus consists of four units taught over the course of the year:

- Unit 1: Polynomial and Rational Functions
- Unit 2: Exponential and Logarithmic Functions
- Unit 3: Trigonometric and Polar Functions
- Unit 4: Functions Involving Parameters, Vectors, and Matrices

Criteria, Staffing, and Scheduling

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra II or Algebra II
The criteria for this course will consult multiple data points, including:

- Teacher recommendations
- Report card grades
- Spring Star Diagnostic scores
- NJSLA scores

Staffing/Scheduling: No additional staffing or scheduling is required. The *AP Precalculus* course at the high school will replace the Honors Precalculus course.

AP Business with Personal Finance

Location: Rahway High School

Proposed Start of Course: 2026-2027 School Year

Course Length: Full Year Course

Grade Levels: 9-12

Course Rationale

1. Dual Readiness

- Provides a pathway for students to pursue college credit or advanced standing (through the AP Exam) while simultaneously earning an employer-endorsed credential that validates their skills for immediate workforce entry. It also allows for students to be exposed to AP courses at an earlier grade level.

2. Career Relevance and Engagement

- The course's emphasis on hands-on activities, simulations, and case studies that often allow the students to use real-world applications is designed to increase student excitement and engagement by connecting academics to future careers.

3. Universal Financial Literacy

- Ensure all students master and meet the New Jersey high school graduation requirement for Financial, Economic, Business, and Entrepreneurial Literacy, preparing them for responsible independent living, regardless of their chosen post-secondary pathway.

Course Objective

1. Course Skills

- Business Skills, along with Professional and Leadership Skills, are critical to the deep understanding and application of business and personal finance. Students will develop these skills throughout the course through the various real-world projects and analysis of business cases.

2. Course Content

- The course content is organized into units that reflect key business disciplines of entrepreneurship, finance, accounting, management, and strategy, as well as personal financial literacy.

Course Structure and Content

AP Business with Personal Finance consists of five units taught over the course of the year:

- Unit 1: Business, Competition, and New Ideas
- Unit 2: Marketing
- Unit 3: Personal Saving and Borrowing/Business Finance and Accounting
- Unit 4: Management and Strategy
- Unit 5: Personal Goals, Budgeting, and Investing

Criteria, Staffing, and Scheduling

Prerequisite: None

The criteria for this course will consult multiple data points, including:

- Teacher recommendations
- Report card grades
- Spring Star Diagnostic scores
- NJSLA scores

Staffing/Scheduling: No additional staffing or scheduling is required. The A*P Business with Personal Finance* course at the high school will replace some of the Intro to Business/Financial Literacy courses already offered, depending on enrollment in the course.

Alignment with District Goals

- Promotes a learning community grounded in diversity, academic growth, and leadership, ensuring all students have access to rigorous, high-quality coursework.
- Prepares students for increasingly rigorous academic expectations by strengthening critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills aligned with #RahwayRocks and the #RahwayRenaissance.
- Supports inclusive instructional practices that recognize individual strengths, cultural perspectives, and varied learning needs while maintaining high expectations for all learners.
- Encourages student ownership of learning through engaging, standards-aligned instruction that builds independence, perseverance, and academic confidence.
- Equips students to succeed in advanced coursework, college, and career pathways within an increasingly diverse and interconnected world.

Next Steps

- **January 2026:** Seek Board of Education approval for new course offerings
- **Spring 2026:** Identify and assign qualified teachers
- **Spring/Summer 2026:** Develop curriculum and align instructional materials
- **Summer 2026:** Professional Development for Pre-AP and AP teachers

Thank you!